



£8k bid to create landmark at junction is relaunched

SHELL OUT FOR MEMORIAL PLEA

Report by Jamie Brassington

A FUNDRAISING campaign to bring an artillery shell back as an Halesowen landmark has been relaunched.

Campaigners are appealing for donations to get a decorated artillery shell installed on Shell Corner once again, after one previously stood there after the First World War.

Halesowen ward councillor Stuart Henley said the shell would also be a memorial for remembrance of those who died.

A First World War shell stood in the area between 1924 to 1937 – which is how Shell Corner got its name – but it disappeared following changes to road layouts.

Now Councillor Henley has relaunched a fundraising campaign as part of the project, which would see a planter installed to hold the shell. He launched the campaign last year and managed to raise £340, but that is way off the £8,000 he needs for the full project.

A sum is needed to pay Dudley Council to move the road signage, councillor Henley said. He was given a new artillery shell to be put on display in Shell Corner by a bomb

squad in Essex around 18 months ago. Students from Halesowen College have Poppy Day inspired art work onto it.

Councillor Henley said: "Shell Corner is famous for its shell. This project is important for the heritage of the area. Hopefully, local projects like this can improve the area and bring the community together."

Shell Corner was originally known as The Junction. In its heyday it had three butchers, a grocers, three hairdressers and a strong community spirit. However, in recent years it has been blighted by vandalism.

Councillor Henley wants the shell to be erected on the corner of Long Lane and Maple Road. He said a planter would cost around £2,000. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/returnoftheshell

MUDDY GOOD IDEA GETS KIDS PLAYING OUTDOORS



Halesowen couple Becky and Dave Roberts with one of their Puddy Muddles Mud Kitchens, which are available online

A COUPLE from Halesowen making their own 'mud kitchens' have been flooded with orders from across the UK just weeks after launching a new venture aiming to get more children playing outdoors.

Puddy Muddles Mud Kitchens is the brainchild of Becky and Dave Roberts, selling their own hand-crafted outdoor play stations made from reclaimed pallets.

Research shows that today's children spend only half the time their parents did playing

outside but a growing trend for mud kitchens – which come complete with kitchen utensils and a mixing bowl for messy garden play – is helping to buck that trend.

Puddy Muddles started when Dave, who works in gym equipment sales, built a mud kitchen for their daughter from spare pallets in their Halesowen garden. After catching the eye of friends and family on social media, the couple started taking commissions – and have since been inundated with orders.

Now Dave and Becky, who recently left a career of 18 years working in catering and events management to focus on their new family venture, are hoping to get more children playing outside as the business grows.

Becky said: "There's been a real growth in mud kitchens in recent years, not just in the garden but in nurseries and schools too. We all know there are benefits to getting our children off the sofa, away from the TV and playing outside."

GAMBLING

£12m casino gets licence approvals

A £12 million casino is now odds-on to be built at Dudley's Castlegate Park after it secured vital gambling and drinks licences.

Castle Casino, on Castle Hill, aims to relocate to a modern new building at the nearby leisure park and relaunch as Casino 36.

The casino, which will be on a separate floor to a bingo hall at the premises, has also obtained a 24-hour gambling licence for the venture.

Casino 36, the company which also runs a casino in Wolverhampton, is investing more than £12 million to deliver a second site in Dudley, creating up to 100 jobs.

COURT

Man charged with hospital bomb hoax

A MAN has been charged with making a bomb hoax which forced Russells Hall Hospital into a state of lockdown.

Unemployed Norman Taylor, 43, of Spiral Close, Halesowen, appeared before magistrates in Dudley on Monday charged with making a bomb hoax, following the incident on Saturday. He did not enter a plea and was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 2.

RAID

Suspects in court over shop robbery

THREE men have appeared before magistrates on suspicion of involvement in an armed robbery at the One Stop Shop in Worcester Street, Stourbridge, on Friday.

Carl Cina, 50, from Stourbridge Road, Stuart Dublin, 35, from Blowers Road, and Delroy Nettleford, 53, from Stourbridge Road, were all remanded to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 2.

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DIANA HAS NEW ROLE AS DUSTY



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Tragedy as Kyle, aged 11, hit by lorry



Kyle Bastable, aged 11

AN 11-year-old boy died after being hit by a lorry near Birchley island, Oldbury. Kyle Bastable, also known as Joe by relatives, was hit by a DPD lorry close to the Shell garage. The youngster was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the lorry involved in the incident off Wolverhampton Road is helping police with their enquiries.

West Midlands Police said it was called at around 10pm on Thursday that a DPD vehicle was involved in a fatal accident at the Birchley Island roundabout in Oldbury and that we

The road was shut for more than seven hours while initial investigations were carried out. A second boy was assessed at the scene by paramedics before being left in the care of his parents.

Pictures from the scene on Thursday night show a lorry carrying the logo of parcel delivery firm DPD behind police tape. The company has a base near to the scene.

A spokesman said: "We can confirm that a DPD vehicle was involved in a fatal accident at the Birchley Island roundabout in Oldbury and that we

are currently helping the emergency services with their investigation. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of the young boy involved."

Detective sergeant Paul Hughes, from West Midlands Police's Collision Investigation Unit, said: "A young boy has tragically lost his life and we are trying to establish the circumstances. This is a very busy junction and we are keen to hear from anybody who was in the area at the time and may have witnessed the collision."

Call police on 101.

Shared housing plan at warehouse backed

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to turn a Cradley Heath warehouse into shared housing has been backed by planning officers despite concerns raised by police and residents.

Residents had hoped to halt a plan to convert the building, in Pennant Road, Cradley Heath, into a house of multiple occupation (HMO) but look to be facing defeat after it was recommended for approval.

Police also objected to the scheme due to concerns over parking. Residents said they were not informed what sort of accommodation would be offered, while there were also concerns over parking and noise.

Fifteen objections were submitted to Sandwell Council planners by residents.

The proposal submitted by Krundil Developments would see a home with 21 rooms created. In documents released this week, it says that councillors have now carried out a site visit to the warehouse to decide whether it should be allowed to be turned into shared housing.

Bedroom

Christine Wakeman, who has lived in Pennant Road for 40 years, said she was concerned people staying in the three-storey building could be able to see into her home.

The 65-year-old said: "Nobody has told us anything. They could look right into my bedroom and there is nowhere to park on the road."

However, committee documents state that the HMO will 'not significantly harm' the area. It reads: "The proposed HMO is acceptable as it will provide suitable living accommodation which will not significantly harm the amenities of neighbouring residential property."

"This application is recommended for conditional approval."

Planners were due to make a decision on the proposal yesterday (Wednesday).

Look what's tuk tuk to the road now



Oldbury couple Sandip Gillar and her husband Dal have launched a new company called 'Ride my Tuk Tuk'

LUXURY stretch limos, converted ambulances and fire engines and horse-drawn carriages. We've seen it all on our roads and now you can add the tiny tuk tuk - popular as a mode of transport in Asian countries - to the list in the Black Country.

Snapped up online and transformed by Oldbury couple Sandip Gillar and Dal Gillar, the all-electric Ride My Tuk Tuk, will offer customers the chance to travel to events in three-wheeled style.

The customised yellow and black vehicle, which came all the way from China, can hit speeds of up to 30 miles per hour and has space for five people.

And it is environmentally-friendly, travelling 60 miles before it needs to be charged up again for four or five hours.

The couple decided to start the company whilst Sandip was on maternity leave waiting to give birth to her now four-month-old daughter Ava.

Mrs Gillar, 29, said: "Everyone absolutely loves it, for many people it brings back memories they have of India or Pakistan and the younger ones love the uniqueness of it."

Sandip, a senior marketing campaign co-ordinator for Poundland came up with the idea. She discussed it with husband Dal, 29, who took to web to buy the vehicle - and it is already booked as transport at several weddings and birthdays.

Assessment before murder accused due to stand trial

A MAN accused of killing a mother and her teenage son at their family home in Stourbridge is to be assessed by doctors before he stands trial later this year.

Aaron Barley, aged 24, is accused of murdering Tracey Wilkinson, 50, and her 13-year-old son Pierce, who were both stabbed to death at their home on Greyhound Lane, Norton, in March.

Mrs Wilkinson's husband Peter, 47, was also stabbed but survived.

Barley appeared at Birmingham Crown Court last Thursday as details of his trial, set for October 3, were discussed. Wearing a red T-shirt and jogging bottoms, Barley spoke only to confirm his name and had his head bowed during the ten-minute hearing.

Peter Wilkinson was at the hearing, sat in the public gallery alongside daughter Lydia, who was at university on the day her mother and brother died. Mr Wilkinson kept his gaze fixed on the accused for much of the court proceedings.

Mr Karim Khalil, prosecuting, explained that Barley would undergo a psychological assessment before the trial. Barley has not as yet entered a plea to two counts of murder and was remanded in custody until the trial start date next month.

Scarecrow festival at village has fairy tale theme

AN annual scarecrow festival will be returning to a village near Stourbridge at the end of this month.

The Belbroughton Scarecrow Festival, this year on a fables and fairytales theme, will take place on September 30 and October 1.

As part of the festival, the village green will welcome dozens of scarecrows while people will be able to play traditional games such as splat-the-rat and welly-wanging.

Live music from local bands will on offer for those attending throughout the weekend, along with a classic car display, children's entertainment, a flight simulator and a miniature steam railway. For tickets visit www.skiddle.com and search Scarecrow Festival.

Safety is on the agenda at meeting

PEOPLE will be able to hear about the work being done by the Community Safety Partnership on October 30 at Dudley Council House, from 6pm. Officials from Dudley Council, police and fire service will attend.

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Police arrest key suspect in Brierley Hill murder

A MURDER suspect wanted by police over the death of a father in a Brierley Hill street has been arrested in Birmingham after a nationwide hunt.

Niron Parker-Lee's arrest follows a 10-month manhunt, which featured an appeal on BBC Crimewatch and the offer of a £6,000 reward.

The 19-year-old was wanted in connection with the death of Mansoor Mahmood, who was stabbed to death in Brierley Hill High Street last October.

On Thursday night, Parker-Lee was arrested at an address in Northfield. He appeared before magistrates in Birmingham on Saturday and was charged with murder. He is being held in custody due to appear at Birmingham Crown Court this week.

Mr Mahmood, a 24-year-old factory worker, was knifed in the chest on October 15. He staggered into the Dixi Chicken takeaway, where staff called for an ambulance that took him to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

But he died a short time later, leaving behind his wife Aisha and two children, Isa and Awaiz.

The search for Parker-Lee was stepped up in June with the reward for information increased from £2,000 to £6,000.

The tripling in reward was thanks to Crimestoppers and money raised by the family.

Ferocious comic in town hall show

COMIC Ian Cognito will be bringing his controversial brand of stand-up Stourbridge tonight (Thursday).

The comedian, who has been called the pitbull of comedy due to his ferocious reputation, will perform at the monthly Kum-n-avaloff Comedy Night on its return to Stourbridge Town Hall at 8pm.

Cognito has been compared to Lenny Bruce and Bill Hicks but has never crossed over to TV, in part at least due to his hard-hitting approach.

He will be joined at the town hall's Wollaston Studio by up-and-coming stand-up Morgan Rees, Pat Gallagher and MC Aaron Twitchen. Tickets, including curry and rice during the interval, cost £8. See www.boroughhalls.co.uk/kum-n-avaloff.html

Zoo fundraiser

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo helped to raise more than £500 during International Orangutan Day, when keepers manned an information stand at the Castle Hill attraction to raise awareness about threats faced in the wild.

Have-a-go hero Dipz in to halt robbery



Heroic Dipz Singh and others stepped in

"I don't think they expected it. I think they expected me to back down or run off. I am not going to back down to people like that."

Those are the words of a have-a-go hero who foiled two armed robbers at his local convenience store.

Pardeep Singh, known to all as Dipz, had only popped in at the One Stop in Stourbridge but the 39-year-old fitness instructor ended up face-to-face with two balaclava-clad robbers, each armed with a metal bar.

Rather than run he challenged the thugs, taking each down in turn, and

then held them with the help of others until the police arrived minutes later.

Dipz explained that he "got angry" after seeing "terror" on the faces of staff and vowed not to let the robbers escape.

"It was just not fair to run off," he said. "People work hard for their money and for someone to just think they can take that money, that they can make easy money, is not alright. We are a civilised society and there is no place for people like that."

"My family live in that area. What

if it had been them in the shop? What if it had of been a child? They should be ashamed of themselves."

The drama unfolded at One Stop in Worcester Street, by Mary Stevens Park, at around 10pm on Friday, September 1.

Three men from Dudley were arrested and later charged, including the suspected getaway driver.

Dipz, a freelance personal trainer at Foundry Gym, Wolverhampton, and at Anchor Gym, West Bromwich, suffered nothing more than a couple of cuts to his hand for his trouble.

Teenager is locked up after store explosion

A SCHOOLBOY who caused an explosion in a Black Country supermarket just days after the Manchester Arena bombing has been locked up for four years and four months.

The 16-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, caused 'pandemonium' at Blackheath Sainsbury's supermarket when he detonated the homemade explosive in a toilet.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the computer obsessed youth had made the bomb following instructions online, using everyday items bought from Poundland.

Sentencing him, Judge James Burbidge QC said the teenager was not a terrorist and did not hold any fanatical beliefs. He said: "You did not intentionally want to cause harm but it was such a highly reckless act that it was fortunate people were not caused harm. Nothing but a substantial custodial sentence is justified."

Blade

The teenager, who wore a bandana over the lower part of his face, strolled into the Halesowen Street supermarket at about noon on May 27. He placed the explosive in a cubicle and detonated it.

Prosecutor Mr Simon Hanns said a cleaner, warned away by the youth, saw he was grasping a blade.

The boy, 15 at the time, removed his disguise in an attempt to blend in with panicked shoppers. The store was evacuated and armed police attended.

The teenager, who has Asperger syndrome and was said to come from a loving family, told police he had not intended to harm shoppers or staff.

Defence barrister Mr Andrew Jackson said: "This whole dreadful episode appears to be motivated by a combination of curiosity and, almost addiction, to computers."

More than £1,000 worth of damage was caused and the store lost £110,000 revenue.

The boy admitted making an explosive substance for unlawful purposes and possession of a blade in a public place.

Out of this world but under the M5



Dudley amateur photographer Phil Ward's intriguing image of work on the Oldbury Viaduct on the M5

IT takes a little while for your eyes to adjust to this photograph, its strange appearance makes it look like the storage bay on a spaceship. But far from being extra-terrestrial, this was taken underneath the Oldbury Viaduct between junctions 1 and 2 of the M5. The photograph was taken by

Phil Wild, a 64-year-old amateur photographer from Lower Gornal.

Mr Wild uses a Canon EOS 650 camera and 70-200mm lens. His inspiration for the photograph was that he wanted to show the work at the viaduct, the subject of considerable concrete repair work which has led to delays on

the busy route through the Black Country.

Mr Wild used favourable light and the reflection on the canal to capture this stunning image.

He said: "One of my favourite elements was the line of the canal leading you to the centre of the photograph."

Boy admits having machete at school

A TEENAGER has confessed to arming himself with a machete before going to school in Dudley.

The 13-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, admitted possessing an offensive weapon on school premises in July.

He also confessed to having a large knife with him while in Price Street, in the Kates Hill area of Dudley, around a month after the school incident, Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court heard.

The youth is due to appear again at the same court for sentence on Wednesday, September 20.

Trust is looking at health links

THE relationship between physical and mental health will be discussed by experts as part of an annual meeting of the joint Dudley and Walsall's Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

The trust is inviting the public to the meeting on Friday, September 22, at The New Art Gallery in Walsall. The meeting is from 10am to 2.30pm.

A forum titled 'Healthy Mind, Healthy You' will look at the relationship between physical and mental health as well as workshops and therapies available to the public. For more details call (01384) 325015.

More than half a century of hits

A HITMAKER of the rock 'n' roll era who found success again in the 1970s, Neil Sedaka, has a concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Thursday, September 14.

The 78-year-old New Yorker's success began in 1959 with Oh! Carol. He had early 60s hits with Calendar Girl, Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen and Breaking Up Is Hard To Do. Sedaka relaunched his career in the 1970s, enjoying hits with Laughter In The Rain, Love Will Keep Us Together and Solitaire. Tickets are £60 and £51. See tsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

Man, 50, has denied taking drugs to prison

A MAN from the Black Country has pleaded not guilty to taking drugs into a prison.

Carl Cina, aged 50, of Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, pleaded not guilty to one charge of possession of a class A drug with intent to supply and one charge of bringing a class A prohibited item into Featherstone prison on March 16.

He will appear at Stafford Crown Court for trial on November 2.

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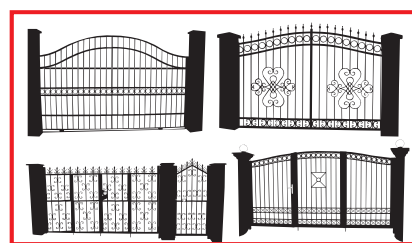
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Wordley metal artist Luke Perry, based in Cradley Heath



Proving a pint – Halesowen master brewer Scott Povey



Daniel Westwood Studio Family design Artist Felicity Hammond draws inspiration from the Black Country



Sing-along will help people with dementia

THE Salvation Army is launching sing-along sessions in a bid to help people who have dementia.

The Sedgley group is one of the first Salvation Army churches to host a Singing By Heart group, which will be held on the final Monday in each month.

Those living with dementia can go along with their carers for a selection of popular Christian and secular songs.

The army is also holding a free hour-long dementia awareness session on Tuesday to give people an idea about living with the illness. The sing-along is the brainchild of The Salvation Army's older people's ministries and its music and creative arts teams.

Margaret Hollis, a local leader, said: "Singing really helps to make both a spiritual and mind connection and people really enjoy their time together."

"We are committed to growing awareness about dementia in Sedgley. We want to welcome people into our future activities within the community."

Singing by Heart launches on September 25 at All Saints Church Hall, Ladies Walk in Sedgley. It will take place at the rear of the hall, opposite the clinic and library. See www.dementiafriends.org.uk for further information.

Football star will give property tips

FORMER England and Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler will be giving tips on building a property empire with a talk in Dudley.

The ex-Premier League star has built up a multimillion pound housing portfolio since retiring from the beautiful game.

A free workshop will take place at the Cophorne Hotel Merry Hill at Brierley Hill on September 14. He will give tips to those looking to invest and get into the market.

Further information can be found on the Property Academy website at www.property-academy.com

Masters of their universe

THE wait to find out who are the 100 most talented and skilled Masters from the Black Country is over – at least for some.

Creative Black Country, which set out to identify the 100 Masters, has begun to release the names of those who made the list. Here we feature the first contingent from Dudley nominated by the people of the Black Country.

The year-long regional campaign is aimed at inspiring and offering people a fresh perspective about the strengths, skills, talent and expertise surfacing from their locality and community. Hundreds of nominations were submitted for the June 30 deadline and now the 100 Masters list has been compiled.

Each day until November a Master is being released via the 100 Masters website – with all 100 to feature in the Express & Star. The public will

get the chance to get up close to some of the Masters when they appear at a special Expo on November 25 at Starworks in Wolverhampton.

A Master is described as 'a noteworthy person who has forged their own path and displayed outstanding ability that has influenced others.'

Project Coordinator, Liam Smyth, from Arts Council England funded group Creative Black Country said: "The Black Country was forged at the hands of men and women from

all walks of life who honed their skills to the highest levels. The final 100 Masters showcase the wealth of talent that our area has to offer."

Those nominated from Dudley include: Artist Felicity Hammond, former Stourbridge College student has been a finalist and nominee for numerous top awards including Saatchi New Sensations in 2014; fashion designer Elizabeth Isley, put her own fashion spin on leather jackets bought in charity shops, caught

the eye of celebrities including Kim Kardashian and now has studio in Birmingham.

Artist Dean Melbourne, his work has been accepted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition three times; sculptor Luke Perry, whose metal work is seen at locations across the Black Country; brewer Scott Povey, from Blackheath's Fixed Wheel Brewery; digital designer Daniel Westwood, from Halesowen, who has worked with leading ad agencies.

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Spy car will tackle illegal parking outside schools

A 'SPY car' will patrol Dudley targeting drivers and recording evidence about poor parking near schools.

The vehicle will be out with the start of the new school term in a bid to keep children safe.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, explained: "Illegal parking outside schools puts the lives of children at risk."

The car, which was tested outside some schools in June and July, aims to catch motorists parking on yellow zigzag lines and they could be handed a £70 fine. The project is costing £60,000 to set up and aims to be self-financing, meaning the cost of running the scheme will be funded by the income from fines.

The car-mounted camera will only start rolling when a car has driven over the zigzag lines, thanks to smart technology which detects the road markings.

Spice up your life at city's chilli festival

BIRMINGHAM Chilli Festival is back, at Brindleyplace on Saturday, September 16.

There will be the annual chilli themed market along with nerve-wracking challenges.

The festival will be raising the stakes with a 100ft forward-facing abseil from number 4 Brindleyplace to raise funds for one of their 2017 charity partners, Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. Nathan Sanghera, Marketing and Events Executive at Brindleyplace, said: "We wanted to shift gears and take this year's chilli festival to the extreme."

The festival is between 11am and 7pm in Central Square. Find out more at www.brindleyplace.com website.

Council officers will sift through the video and anyone captured parking illegally will be sent penalty notices.

Government policy means the council can only use the CCTV to capture certain traffic offences, such as illegally parking on yellow zigzags and red routes or travelling in bus lanes. The scheme will not be able to punish motorists for illegally parking on double yellow lines, or on white zigzags next to zebra or pelican crossings.

Councillor Shakespeare said: "The yellow zigzag lines are there for a reason - to ensure visibility so children can see and be seen clearly when they cross the road on their way to and from school. We take this extremely seriously."

"People who flout the law and ignore the zigzags will be fined. The new CCTV equipped car should help us catch those who are endangering children."

"The vehicle will be patrolling school sites on most days and I am sure it will be welcomed by the majority of law-abiding residents, who will be as frustrated as we are at illegal parking."

Cupid sells for three times the estimate



Will Farmer with the marble sculpture that fetched £91,000 at Stourbridge

AN auction of the contents of a country house near Stourbridge raised hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The items were put up for sale by the owners of Wordsley Manor and formed the bulk of 690 lots that went under the hammer at Stourbridge auctioneers Fieldings on Saturday, drawing bids from America, Japan, Australia and Russia.

A 19th-century carved marble sculpture of Cupid taming the lion by Italian sculptor Emanuele Caroni fetched the highest price when it was bought for £91,000 by a UK-based specialist dealer. That was more than three times the estimate.

Will Farmer, a Fieldings director and expert on TV's Antiques Roadshow, said: "I expected it to perform well and was very pleased, but not surprised, by the final price."

Among other big ticket items was a 19th-century French marble bust, Marguerite, that fetched £8,600.

A painting by 19th century British artist Alfred Pollentine of a scene in Venice sold for £4,000.

The auction was very well attended but a lot of the bidding was done via the internet. The items that went under the hammer ranged from ceramics, glass and jewellery to paintings, prints, furniture and collectables.

Mr Farmer added: "We did not sell absolutely everything but there were only a smattering of odds and ends that were not sold."

Lifecentral church open new building

THE opening of a newly-refurbished auditorium at a Black Country church has been hailed as a part of its future 'legacy'.

Lifecentral Church, formerly known as The Zion Christian Centre, has been based in Halesowen for 40 years. In 2015 half of the building was extensively damaged by a devastating fire.

Now a new 400-seater auditorium with offices and toilets has been built at the site in Little Cornbow and will officially next Sunday, September 17.

Since the early 1980s the church has been in the centre of the town, known for carrying its youth work and its range of community activities.

Pastor Leon Evans said: "After 12 years of exploring many options - and a major fire just over two years ago - we are excited to be opening a new multi-purpose 400-seat auditorium for the church and wider community."

Last Easter the Zion Christian Centre, as it was previously known, changed its name to Lifecentral Church. It also was launched in Hagley, where - apart from September 17 - meetings are held at 4.30pm every Sunday at Haybridge High School and Sixth Form, in Brake Lane.

The opening of the building in Little Cornbow will also see a dedication service on September 17 at 9.30am and 11.30am in the new auditorium.

Best of veg at annual horticultural show

ROWLEY Regis Horticultural Society will be holding their annual vegetable and flower show next Saturday, September 16.

It is at the Rowley and Blackheath Labour Club in Hawes Lane from 6pm and is free admission. Prizes will be presented by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris. Vegetables and cakes will be sold from 7.15pm.

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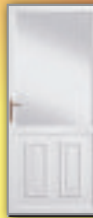
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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Excellent strategy to avoid core problems

GREAT news. Thanks to the excellent policies of local government, the Black Country's main town centres are doing exceptionally well. This is in no small part down to the excellent Black Country Core Strategy drawn up in 2011.

That's exactly what I thought when I walked through Dudley over the weekend, and surveyed the vast array of huge, glossy stores which have flocked to the town over the past six years. All those exciting payday lenders and charity shops.

We know our towns are thriving, because it says so in the consultation document for the Black Country Core Strategy. Yep, it's now time for the great and the good to ask for our vote of confidence, so they can give us more of the same.

Actually, it didn't say Dudley was thriving. Because if you read the fine print of the document – and the councils behind it know that most of us won't – the authors came up with a rather novel way of dealing with Dudley's decline. By redefining a town centre.

Of course, they redefined the Black Country years ago. And while I doubt whether many people feel any great affinity with a Black Country defined by 1970s local authority boundaries, at least we know what they mean.

However, the way that they redefined the term "town centre" is really quite special. Shortly before the publication of their vision, the signs for Brierley Hill town centre were quietly moved. Not just a few yards, but nearly a mile, so they are around the perimeter of the Merry Hill centre. The plan then redefined Merry Hill as being one of the "four strategic town centres for the Black Country", and quietly erased Dudley from the map. And that is the basis of the claim that our "main town centres" are thriving.

If you do want to have your say, consultation closes on Friday, although local councils also have their own definition of "consultation": "The exercise of telling people what they should be thinking, and then setting up a mechanism where only those who support it will reply."

Helpfully, they have decided to cut through the gobbledygook by providing a rather patronising questionnaire for "non-experts", which is filled with platitudes and loaded questions like: "Do you think people's health and wellbeing should be a key issue?" Dunno, can I have a few extra days to think about it?

It also asks: "Should we focus the growth of shopping, leisure and commercial development into our main town centres?" Depends how you define a town centre, doesn't it?

Ed and Geoff pitch in with colourful standpoints



Tom Burke – A number of issues with his role in the latest thriller from the Beeb



Hellboy and back – Ed Skrein, who found things were not all white in the latest superhero reboot



Geoffrey Boycott – did he get caught out making an off-colour comment?

Taking Strike at new TV thriller's realism

DRIVERLESS Lorries to Hit British Roads (headline this week). Precisely. And what else will they hit?

I WAS tempted by one of the ice-cream sweets on offer at a restaurant because it was "garnished with a malted ball." A malted ball? What exotic, sophisticated and perfectly crafted amuse-bouche might this be? Turned out to be a Malteser.

TWO questions hang over the Beeb's latest private-eye drama, Strike. Firstly, would it ever have made it into production if the "Robert Galbraith" who wrote the original novels had not been revealed as one J K Rowling? I doubt it. Secondly, why on earth is everyone so keen to chat to the private detective, Cormoran Strike? Why would the investigating police officer even deign to meet Strike? Why would the murdered woman's driver blab? Why would the concierge at her flat take Strike on a guided tour of the exclusive apartments, including the residents' swimming pool – surely a sacking offence? Take it from me, as one who spent a career trying to get people to talk about awkward issues, it is never that easy.

I SUGGESTED that new laws are needed to make pedestrians behave safely. It turns out to be an ancient argument. Back in 1942, the Autocar Handbook commented on "jay walking" laws in force in parts of Europe. But in Britain "much opposition has come from those who hold the ancient rights of the walker to be inviolable." Nothing has changed. In the name of

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



our ancient liberties we are free to walk – and free to die.

SOME scientists believe dementia could be avoided by adding lithium to our tap water. So let me be the first to alert you to the Great Lithium Conspiracy. It is, of course, a wicked plan concocted by the Illuminati, the shadowy figures who really control this planet, to introduce a sinister chemical into our water to take us over by controlling our minds and polluting our precious bodily fluids. It is part of their Master Plan which also involved kidnapping Elvis, assassinating John Lennon, faking the moon landings and murdering Princess Di (because she knew about the lithium). Do not touch a drop of lithiumised water without first wrapping your head in aluminium foil. Pass it on before they get you, too.

I ADMIT that until this week I had never heard of Ed Skrein. I admit, too, that I had to read reports of his "whitewash" campaign several times before understanding what he was banging on about. In a nutshell, Mr Skrein, an actor, was expected to play Major Ben Daimo in a new film, Hellboy: Rise of the Blood Queen. Then he discovered that in the original Hellboy comics, Daimo (an entirely fictitious character) was of

mixed-Asian heritage. After some protests from Asian activists, Skrein turned down the job, declaring: "I must do what I feel is right." For doing so, Skrein is a right-on hero. The Guardian hails his "inspiring protest against the invisibility of Asian people in the media." But the contradictions are endless. How, for example, does Skrein's decision fit in with the modern and thoroughly enlightened trend for colour-blind casting? If we can't have a white Major Daimo, how can we even discuss Idris Elba becoming the first black James Bond? As for the alleged "invisibility of Asian people in the media," what about Bollywood and martial-arts movies which are full of Indian and Chinese stars? Would Ed Skrein turn down the part of Hamlet on the grounds that he is not Danish? If not, why not?

IF you need evidence that our civilisation is in decline, look no further than the bank-holiday queues for cut-price Prosecco at some Lidl branches which descended into ugliness when stocks ran out. "My weekend is ruined," howled one hysterical Twitter user facing the unspeakable horror of having to pay £5.79 for a bottle of bubbly instead of the £3.33 offer. Ruination is not what it used to be.

GEOFF Boycott, a 76-year-old Yorkshireman, will keep his cricket commenting job despite his ill judged comment that the only way for him to get a knighthood would be to 'black me face'. Some accused him of racism for his remark but we should not ignore Boycott's own ethnicity. As 76-year-old Yorkshiremen go, he is a soft old woolly liberal.

TALKING POINT



Time for letting the world see real you

I MET up with a friend recently – one I have known for years and have spent many a pleasant evening over dinner catching up with all her latest family news. I was only too aware of all the problems she had had to face over the past weeks/months but did not feel that I should ask in case it upset her.

So I simply said: "How are things?" To which she replied with a smile on her face, "Just fine thanks" and we moved on. I knew that things were anything but fine but it's amazing how many people spend their lives doing that – painting a smile on their face and pretending everything is all right. And they do say that a problem shared and all that. . .

Maybe sometimes the problems are too personal and too difficult to talk about, and I understand that, but trying to stifle how they feel must surely make it harder to deal with and lead to even more stress.

We are all guilty to a certain extent. How many times at work have people greeted you with a cheery smile and said: "You OK?" for you to reply "Yes thanks". Many times I am sure they really don't want to hear how you actually feel. It is just a greeting not an actual question. Perhaps if you turned round and said: "Well actually I feel sh". they would run a mile. Stress is such a big problem these days and can lead to not eating properly and lack of sleep which add to health worries. In many cases depression is ignored, or seen as a stigma, and so the person is left to deal with it alone.

But these days, with the suicide rate in young people on the rise, there are initiatives that can help. And members of the Royal Family are leading the way.

Prince Harry recently revealed he "shut down all his emotions" for two decades after losing his mother Princess Diana. Harry admitted he sought therapy and took up boxing to combat frustration. Twenty years on and he finally found the strength to open up about the struggles the two brothers faced following their mother's death.

They, along with the Duchess of Cambridge, have teamed up for the Heads Together campaign, which works to dispel the stigma surrounding mental health.

Bringing people together in similar situations to talk about their problems means they do not feel that they have to face them alone. They can learn from people who may have been through similar difficulties how better to cope so that that the smiles people see are not false and they don't feel so alone. Surely it's worth a try.

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Worry about debt rather than Brexit

I WAKE up every day and thankfully find I'm not skewered on jagged rocks.

Okay, so Brexit has not yet been accomplished, and if the Remoaners and the traitorous band of EU addicts such as Blair have their way, it might never happen.

Nevertheless, legend had it that by now we would have all ended up at the bottom of a 90-foot deep cliff (remember the Fear Factor propaganda? 'We are sleep walking into falling off a cliff').

This hasn't happened. Maybe it was a bungee jump or maybe there never was a cliff.

The devaluation of the pound (it has been overvalued for years) may have added to inflation and made those continental holidays more expensive but exports are booming as a result and there's plenty to shout about in manufacturing.

Then, of course, we were told all those super-intelligent whiz kids from Europe would be queuing up to leave.

Well, they haven't and more are entering. German and Japanese com-

panies who were also by now on their way out have in fact planned more investment in UK. Employment is at its highest level since Adam was a lad.

As far as I'm concerned, it's not the EU we have to fear for our long term future.

I have said on many occasions, I really worry about the level of personal debt we are piling up.

There will certainly be a reckoning unless this is checked and pronto.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

Keep an eye on children with asthma

THE school summer holidays have sadly come to an end. Children are at a much greater risk of having an asthma attack when they're back at school. Latest figures show children were 1.7 times more likely to be rushed to hospital following an asthma attack in September than in August.

Every 10 seconds someone has a potentially life-threatening asthma attack in the UK, so it's important for parents to spot the signs of an asthma attack early.

You should book an urgent appointment with the GP or asthma nurse if your child is: using their reliever inhaler (usually blue) more than three times a week; coughing or wheezing at night; feeling out of breath.

Parents who have concerns can speak to our nurses by calling 0300 222 5800 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm), or find more information by visiting www.asthma.org.uk/back-to-school

SONIA MUNDE
Nurse Manager
Asthma UK

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Cycle race route should stay in Brum

THE Velo Birmingham Cycle Race, as far as I can make out, is described as a new venture to raise funds for 'local' charities. The charities being Alzheimer's Society, Cure Leukaemia, NSPCC and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. Of these four, three are national charities.

My grumble? We'll start from the fact that there will be 'rolling road closures' for much of the day! Causing inconvenience, and upset to local inhabitants, and it's only now that people are being informed about them. Why, after objections from local and district councils did the people in Stafford decide to allow it? It's not as if there will be any economic 'bonus' for the people being put to inconvenience.

If Birmingham Velo want a 'Birmingham' race hold it within their city.

MR M GHOUGH
Wombourne

Give me a break, officer

MANY years ago, I was pulled by a young bobby at a bike shop in Dudley for only having one brake lever on the handle bars of my fixed wheel bike. He threatened to give me a summons if he saw me riding the bike.

I was so incensed that I went straight round to the library to look at the relevant regulations. The final ruling statement was 'bikes with a fixed rear wheel must have a brake on the front wheel operated by a lever on the handle bars!'

I rode a fixed wheel road bike for years, with no problems.

If young riders of today want to try riding fixed, they should do so during the winter months, because riders of such bikes have more control. Another thing: I learned to pedal, and frequently I was able to hold my own with riders of the day, riding back towards Wombourne after watching races up the Hermitage.

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Single parent spared jail despite metal bar attack

A 42-year-old man, who attacked a man with a metal bar on the victim's driveway, has been spared jail because he is a single parent.

Bernard McCorry drove to the Halesowen home of Michael Jaynes armed with the weapon. He rushed up to the man, shouted 'you know what you have done,' and started hitting his legs, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. A police report – not read out in court – suggested there had been 'some background' to the incident but details were not made public.

Keeper Sam reward with zoo diploma

A KEEPER at Dudley Zoo has completed his training to become the latest fully-qualified member of staff at the Castle Hill attraction.

Sam Grove has successfully passed a two-year Diploma in the Management of Zoo and Aquarium Animals course.

The 25 year-old said: "I'm delighted, it's been hard work so it's a relief to have finished."

The DMZAA is run in partnership with the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums and Sparsholt College in Hampshire. It is designed for people already working in the zoo community.

Curator Richard Brown, said: "This qualification is the industry standard for training zoo keepers and we're keen for all DZG keeping staff to complete it."

The victim managed to flee to the other side of the road after his son intervened but was followed by McCorry who continued the attack, this time striking him over the head, said Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting.

The defendant halted the beating after being hit once by the son and drove away from the scene. He was arrested on April 9, the day after the assault. The victim was not seriously hurt.

Confront

Mr John Smitheman, defending, said: "He went to confront the man and fully accepts responsibility for his actions. The metal pipe used as a weapon was tubular, which may explain why the injuries were not more serious. The whole incident lasted less than a minute."

McCorry, of Poplar Avenue, Oldbury, who is unemployed, was the sole carer of his 13-year-old child, the court heard. He pleaded guilty to possession of an offensive weapon and assault and was given an eight month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, with a two month night time curfew. He was ordered to pay £150 compensation.

No California dreamin' for these troops



Queen's Dragoon Guards driving Jackal trucks on patrol in the California desert Courtesy of @BritishArmy

FROM their base in the Black Country to the scorching heat of the Californian deserts, it's been quite a change of scene for Dudley's Army reservists, who have been put through their paces in the Mojave Desert.

Members of B Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry – based at Vicar Street in Dudley – have been supporting their paired regiment, the senior light cavalry British Army regiment 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The squadron conquered exercise Diamond Back in up to 36°C (96.8°F) heat.

Deployed from RAF Brize Norton in August to the United States National Training Centre in South East California, they joined the US Army for training in testing terrains.

Private Tasha Cox, from Kinver, who has been in the Army Reserve for less than 18 months, said: "I get to train alongside regular medics and

gain valuable experience. The learning curve has been big but so much fun.

"They (B Squadron) have been really supportive in getting me out here."

The centre, Fort Irwin, is where the USA Armoured Brigades train before every deployment and extends to the size of all the military bases in the UK combined. The Brits have been working hard learning how to camouflage themselves to blend into the rocky landscape.

£1.5m bid to revamp historic park

A SENIOR councillor is calling on more people to visit and enjoy a Dudley park where a £1.5 million revamp is in the pipeline.

Planning boss councillor Ian Kettle said he would be delighted if a bid for the extra cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund were to be successful at Stevens Park in Quarry Bank.

A group made up of the Friends of Stevens Park and Dudley Council have already received around £100,000 this year for stage one of the project. Now they are gearing up to submit a bid for the further funding, which would pay for a new community hub and cafe at the park on Thorns Road.

Councillor Ian Kettle said: "I would be delighted if the bid was to be successful. I would encourage anyone to make use of the park."

Proposals include the renovation of Tintern House, a former farmhouse in the park, for use by the community.

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward councillor David Sparks, chairman of the park friends group, said: "We are hoping that the bid will ultimately be successful because it would make a massive difference to the further regeneration."

The project also aims to illustrate Quarry Bank history at the park, which also includes Quarry Bank War Memorial and sports facilities.

Mayor's walk for Alzheimer's Society

THE Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, has organised a Memory Walk to support Dudley Alzheimer's Society, one of three charities he has chosen to help during his year in office.

The sponsored walk at Himley Hall on October 8 at 11am is for all ages and abilities.

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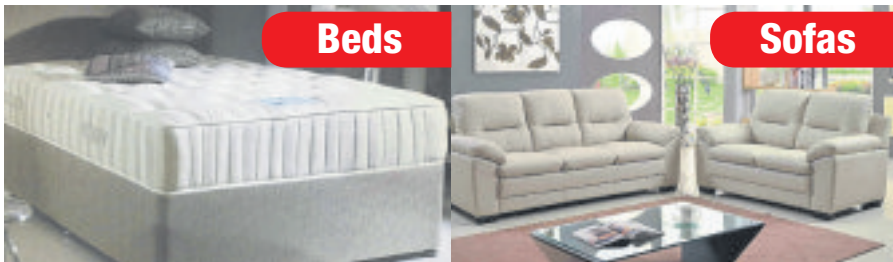
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New GP phone service cuts hospital visits

NEARLY 2,000 patients were spared an avoidable visit to hospital by GPs who used a new service to call specialists for immediate advice.

Doctors in the West Midlands turned to Consultant Connect, which allows them to speak to a specialist, often with the patient still in the room and can save them waiting days for a response or being sent to hospital for further checks.

Around 1,850 patients were spared going to Sandwell Hospital as well as Heartland and Good Hope Hospitals in Birmingham, experts said.

The service covers cardiology, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology, gynaecology, general surgery, haematology, paediatrics, renal medicine, urology and respiratory medicine.

Ensuring

Since the phone line launched, GPs from 100 surgeries across Walsall, Sandwell and Solihull have made nearly 2,500 calls to specialists to get expert advice on the best care for their patients.

Consultant Connect estimates that West Midlands GPs and consultants have saved the NHS £570,000 by ensuring patients get the right treatment from the beginning. The company works with the NHS by providing a phone line for doctors to use if they are unsure on the best way forward for a patient. When local GPs used Consultant Connect, around 50 per cent of their patients avoided the inconvenience of a trip to hospital.

Chief executive Jonathan Patrick said: "It's fantastic that the telephone advice and guidance service Consultant Connect is having such a positive impact on the lives of patients, GPs and consultants in Birmingham."

Library remembers Alf, 91



Alf Breakwell, who died earlier in the year, aged 91

TIPTON library will be hosting its sixth annual local history day later this month when they will remember a friend of the library Alf Breakwell who passed away earlier this year.

Everyone is invited to the event on Saturday September 23 between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Exhibitions on show will include a selection of images from the Palethorpes archive plus stalls, a cake sale and a talk about the history of local firm Walters Funerals.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure Councillor Richard Marshall said: "Alf was 91. He was a

member of the Tipton Home Guard and a regular visitor to the library where he always brought a homemade sponge cake in to share

"As a tribute, the local history group are hosting the Breakwell Bake Off - a cake competition to find the best sandwich cake or loaf cake in the area."

Entry forms are available from all Tipton libraries and Alf's son and daughter will be on the judging panel.

For more details contact community library manager Robert Hazel at the library on 0121 557 1796 or robert_hazel@sandwell.gov.uk

Owner's tale of a garden from scratch

Clent Gardening Club

MEMBERS enjoyed two evening garden visits, firstly, to Langdale at Offenham near Evesham, followed at the next meeting by a talk from the garden's owner Adrian James.

His talk on "A garden from scratch" was the story behind the garden visited. Children having flown the nest, Adrian and his wife decided to downsize from their large house in Kidderminster (with a small garden) and moved to a bungalow in Offenham with a large garden laid to roughly mown grass.

Adrian's garden in Kidderminster had been opened under the "Yellow Book" scheme and his target was to create a new garden suitable for opening under this scheme in under four years! They moved in to their new home in 2009 and the target, successfully achieved, was to open to the public in 2013.

Adrian gave an entertaining talk embellished with many excellent photographs as one of his sidelines is producing photographs professionally for gardening magazines.

After proposing a vote of thanks, the chairman and members enjoyed their usual coffee, tea and biscuits following which he announced the results of the monthly competitions and drew the raffle.

The second visit was to New House Farm at Elmbridge near Droitwich. Both were enjoyed, as well as the obligatory coffee and cakes.

Author books in to entertain members



Michael Taylor signs a book for a member. On the right is the club registrar

A RECORD attendance of 40 members an one visitor enjoyed an excellent three-course lunch, before chairman Pauline Handley introduced speaker Michael Taylor, a local author who set his novels in areas around Dudley.

He described the chaos and havoc inflicted by the ex-convict navvies who built the railways and learned of the terrible scenes in Brierley Hill in 1858 when 42 railway coaches travelling from Worcester to Wolverhampton crashed, killing many and injuring more than 100.

Mr Taylor mainly pens romantic novels for women and now writes under the name of Nancy Carson. Several members

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

purchased signed copies of his books at a reduced price.

On August 11, there was a coffee morning at the home of Ann and Mike Rogers. Strawberries and cream scones were served and also there was a very successful bring and buy stall and raffle, boosting funds for charities.

Sue Langley talk about her Great Aussie Adventure on October 13 and Mike Wood MP will inform members about Parliamentary and Current Affairs on November 10.

Summer tea party enjoyed by all

Grange E Guild

Sue Wilding held a random raffle, where all members were allocated a number and many prizes were won.

Speaker Jacqueline Hill talked about a children's charity she is connected

with. It relies on sponsorship and donations to help to take 30 to 40 underprivileged children, aged 12-to-18, on a week's holiday to Bideford in Devon. A vote of thanks was given.

The normal monthly raffle was then drawn with several prizes.

Elderly driver rescued after car falls 40 feet



Emergency services at the scene of Monday's car accident near Hagley. **AN elderly man escaped serious injury – despite his car slipping 40ft backwards down an embankment.**

The driver managed to climb out of the vehicle's sun roof but could not get back up the slope and was rescued by West Midlands Ambulance Service staff.

He suffered shoulder and back pain but the man's injuries were described as 'remarkably minor' by the ambulance service.

The incident happened just before 7pm last night on Ounty John Lane, Stourbridge. A Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) and an ambulance were sent to the scene.

Ambulance service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "On arrival, ambulance staff found a car that had gone backwards down the steep slope and had turned over onto the passenger side. The man had been able to climb out of the vehicle through the sun roof but was unable to get back up.

Photo: Peter Bowles

"While HART staff went down to the man to treat him firefighters were setting up a rope line set. He was complaining of shoulder and back pain but the injuries were remarkably minor considering where his car had ended up.

"The man was immobilised on a specialist multi integrated bodysplint stretcher and was then lifted back up the embankment to the roadway.

"He was then taken by ambulance to Russells Hall Hospital."

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A member of the Rydale Group

Family campaign for club to stay shut after fatal stabbing

THE family of a man murdered at a nightclub in Stourbridge are stepping up their campaign to get the venue closed

More than 3,500 people have backed a petition to shut Chicago's in the town centre, where 24-year-old Ryan Passey was knifed to death.

Following a temporary licence suspension in the wake of the attack on August 6, Dudley Council bosses have ruled that the club can reopen with tightened security measures. But Ryan's girlfriend, Paige Marsh-Roberts, aged 19, said:

Health group innovation is recognised

A BLACK Country healthcare group has been named as one of the 50 most forward-thinking organisations in the Midlands.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group was commended by judges of Innovation 50.

Paul Maubach, chief executive of Dudley CCG, said: "We are really pleased to be highly commended within the Innovation 50 list. This recognition demonstrates the important role that healthcare organisations have in contributing to the success of our Midlands economy, and we are proud to play our part in delivering better outcomes for our population."

All of the organisations that entered were judged by an expert panel that comprised of some of the region's top leaders in business and innovation.

To view the Innovation 50, visit www.innovation50.com website.

"We want Chicago's to close down. It is not the point that it happened in the nightclub, it is the way the situation has been handled."

"We want to get another thousand signatures to get above 4,000, to show the strength of feeling in the town."

The local authority will only look at the petition if an appeal is made by the family over the outcome of the licence review hearing. Bosses at the club said the venue would reopen this month but no date has been announced.

Flowers

Outside the club masses of flowers have been left and tributes laid in honour of popular amateur footballer Ryan. Hundreds attended a vigil.

Stourbridge councillor Nicolas Barlow says power to shut the club should be left with licensing and police.

"Conditions have been put forward by the licensing panel, so I think we need to see how it develops. We can't just single it out because of this one tragic incident," he said.

Appearing at Birmingham Crown Court on Tuesday Kobe Murray, of The Broadway, Dudley, entered a plea of not guilty to a count of murder in relation to the death of Ryan Passey. He was remanded in custody until January 24 when his trial is anticipated to begin.

Survivor didn't know friend was dead



Former Stourbridge student Rebecca McManus was a promising poet

THE friend of a woman who was killed by a speeding driver on Hagley Road West has spoken of her struggle to cope in an online blog.

Rebecca McManus, 21, of Oldbury, was killed in May 2014 by Sukvinder Mannan from Halesowen, who was racing another driver at 100mph when he smashed into a bus stop where Rebecca and her friend Harriet Barnsley, 18, were waiting. Mannan was jailed.

Harriet was seriously injured in the incident and spent three months in a coma. In her blog, titled 'This Too Shall Pass', she has written of her efforts to recover.

She reveals that said she was not informed of her childhood friend Rebecca's death for weeks after regaining consciousness, writing: "I had a feeling that something was wrong, because she didn't visit me during the three months I spent in hospital."

"When my parents eventually told me, I didn't really understand. I don't remember any point at which the news sank in. It was more of a gradual realisation, which I think made it easier to handle."

Despite the serious hurdles she has had to overcome, Harriet, from Birmingham has tried her best to remain upbeat. She wrote: "I don't sit there and moan about how unfair it is. Very simply, because I lived to tell the tale."

Rebecca's father Gerard McManus launched a campaign calling for drivers convicted of causing death by dangerous driving to be banned for life.

Longer prison time after jail disorder

PRISONERS behind the latest disturbance at HMP Birmingham could spend longer behind bars, prison chiefs have warned.

Staff at the privately-run jail, one of the biggest in the country, were involved in a stand-off with inmates lasting almost seven hours following unrest on Sunday, when a number of prisoners refused to return to their cells at the end of the evening.

G4S, which runs the jail, said the incident started at around 5pm and was brought to a safe conclusion at around 11.45pm. An investigation into the disorder, which was confined to one wing, has been launched.

A spokesperson said specially-trained prison staff managed to successfully resolve the stand-off without any injuries. He said: "We do not tolerate violence in our prisons, and are clear that those responsible will be referred to the police and could spend longer behind bars."

It was the second disorder in nine months at the jail. In December, hundreds of prisoners went on the rampage for 12 hours in what was described as the worst prison riot since Strangeways in 1990.

At the time, there were reports of prisoners starting fires, breaking a security chain and destroying paper records. At least three inmates were injured but no prison staff were hurt.

Easy quiz aimed at terrible pub teams

A PUB in Brierley Hill is holding the UK's 'easiest pub quiz' for people put off quizzes by beer quaffing boffins.

The Corn Exchange Flaming Grill, on Amblecote Road, will be offering a £750 prize. Five teams will compete in the event and organisers are asking people to apply to take part ahead of the event on October 5. To enter, visit www.flaminggrillpubs.com/wwqt

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Chloe's charity steps in memory of father



Chloe in fundraiser in memory of her father

A DANCER has organised an evening of song and dance to raise money for a cancer charity in memory of her father who died from the disease.

Chloe Evans, aged 20 from Sedgley, has organised the event for Bowel Cancer UK, a charity she has supported since losing her father to bowel cancer in 2013, at the age of 42. The Worcester University-student has raised £3,000 to date. The event will take place at Colton Hills Community School in Wolverhampton on October 21.

Chloe said: "The evening is to remember my dad, who died from bowel cancer four years ago. The day after would have been his 46th birthday. I like to organise fundraising events in his memory on special dates like this one to turn what could be a sad day into a celebration."

"I have raised over £3,300 for Bowel Cancer UK in memory of my Dad in nine months, and it would be amazing to reach £4,000 by the end of the year."

Chloe's dance group, Ignite Dance Company will be performing at the fundraising event.

Tributes to victim of crash on main road

TRIBUTES have been paid to a man who was killed in a crash on the A449 between Wolverhampton and Wombourne.

Iana Dumitru has been described as 'a nice guy who had a private life' by those who knew him. He died in a crash on August 27 that also left a five-month-old baby with serious injuries.

The red Peugeot 206 overturned on the Stourbridge Road, Penn, just after 6.30pm. Horrified passers-by rushed to try to help on Sunday with one attempting CPR on the man while another picked up the crying baby from a grass verge.

Friends

Shop worker Mr Dumitru, 51, who was from Bucharest, Romania, had been spending the evening out with friends when the accident took place.

A boy aged 16 was questioned by police on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Other occupants of the vehicle, a five-month-old baby, its 23-year-old mother and a 49-year-old woman,

By Clare Butler

were all taken to hospital. A family member, also from Bucharest, said: "He was my mother's boyfriend."

"I saw something about an accident on social media and then my mother got in touch to say what had happened. She said they had been on a trip out on the evening to a lake nearby."

"He had been staying with family friends while working in Wolverhampton in retail. He had gone to Wolverhampton for a something better and to be on a one-year work contract."

"He was a nice guy, someone who was okay to speak too. He didn't have any other family than my mother. We are in shock from this tragedy."

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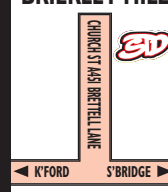
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Apology after hospital carried out biopsy on wrong patient's face

HOSPITAL staff carried out a biopsy on the wrong patient's face at City Hospital, it has emerged.

Staff failed to follow 'patient identification' checks to ensure it was the right person having the procedure, chiefs have admitted. The error saw a patient given a biopsy on their cheek and later have the stitches removed.

Three hospital staff from the dermatology department could be censured for the error - classed as a 'never-event' involving a male patient who does not speak English as a first language.

The report, from Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, said: "In this incident neither of the two patients had the same or similar identifiers except their middle name."

Dr Roger Stedman, medical director, said: "We are very sorry that this incident happened in our outpatient dermatology clinic a few weeks ago and have talked through our mistake with the patient affected, who is unharmed. This error is especially disappointing given similar events on two occasions in the last three years, and is being treated with the utmost seriousness by the Trust Board. We introduced a system where patients attending for procedures will wear a wristband containing their details."



An artist's impression of how the pool at the heart of the aquatics centre in Sandwell would look

Sandwell commits £30m on Commonwealth Games bid

COUNCIL bosses in Sandwell have committed almost £30 million to Birmingham's Commonwealth Games bid as they hit back at criticism from rivals in Liverpool over a planned aquatics centre.

Leisure chiefs said a brand new swimming centre would be built on one of two sites in Smethwick but insisted there was no doubt it would be completed.

Senior council officials met on Thursday night to hammer out details of their support for the bid and commit funds towards it.

Councillor Richard Marshall, leisure boss at Sandwell Council, was stung by remarks from Liverpool that Birmingham organisers had not been able to name its swimming centre but insisted they would deliver a top-class facility.

One site is favoured over the other but Councillor Marshall said it would not be a problem if they needed to switch to the other option.

The state-of-the-art centre would feature 1,000 poolside seats for spec-

tators, while another 4,000 would be drafted in especially for the games.

He said: "Liverpool have been making a big thing that we can't even name our swimming facility but we have committed the best part of £30 million to Birmingham to supply the aquatics centre. Liverpool can say what they like, we have got a good bid between the two councils."

Councillor Marshall said the money for supporting the bid would come from a 'variety of sources', including from council coffers.

He hoped Birmingham and Sandwell officials had done enough to be put forward as the UK host for the 2022 Games.

"We have put a very good proposal together," he said.

"Birmingham and the wider region hasn't had it before. Manchester and the North West has. The North West gets a lot of stuff."

It was revealed in June that Sandwell had agreed to join Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games.

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Bike route confirmed despite a trader outcry

EXTENSIVE road closures will be in place next month near Dudley as the controversial Velo cycling festival route was confirmed.

Some 15,000 cyclists will tackle a 100-mile route through Birmingham, the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire on September 24.

Bosses have confirmed complete road closures will be in place along the route at different times as the cyclists make their way.

The planned closures were met with a backlash from traders who run businesses along the route, concerned about loss of trade on the day.

One couple's wedding is in the balance as access to Blakelands Country House in Bobbington will be restricted due to Velo Birmingham.

Chaos

Paul Morgan, who owns Blakelands, which hosts weddings most weekends, said: "It's chaos. I've got to respond to a girl who's wedding is in two weeks time and she still doesn't know whether her make-up artist or even her registrar will be able to navigate through this."

A meeting was held at Halfpenny Green Vineyards where nearly 40 traders and residents were angry about the closures.

There were claims that farmers will block the route with tractors. Bobbington parish Councillor Roger Lewis has called for legal action and South Staffs MP Gavin Williamson wants the

By Richard Guttridge

Velo to take place elsewhere.

But local authorities have held firm and insist the road closures will go ahead. They say the Velo is the biggest charity bike ride to ever pass through the region and will aim to raise more than £1 million for charity.

The event will start and finish in Broad Street, Birmingham, passing through Sandwell, Dudley, Lower Penn, South Staffs and Worcestershire.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, environment boss at Dudley Council, said: "This is the first race of its kind to come to the Midlands and is a fantastic opportunity for keen cyclists from across the country to see the best of our region while raising thousands of pounds for worthy charities."

Money will be raised for a number of causes, including Alzheimer's Society, NSPCC, Cure Leukaemia and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity.

Visit www.velobirmingham.com/the-route/road-closures for details.

Heater caused fatal fire

A FLAT fire in Dudley Port which claimed the life of a man was started accidentally and involved a portable heater.

On Sunday morning fire crews were called to the blaze at Jay's Avenue, where a man aged in his 50s died. Police were called at around 6.50am. Firefighters from Tipton and West Bromwich managed to prevent the fire spreading to neighbouring homes. An investigation is now under way.



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GET SAVING ON ENERGY BILLS IN PREPARATION FOR WINTER WITH DUDLEY'S BIG SWITCH

With autumn soon taking its hold Dudley Borough residents are being encouraged to get saving on their energy bills before winter bites.

Dudley Council is urging people to sign up to its latest Big Switch energy switching scheme. The scheme offers residents market leading deals on energy which are not available elsewhere. Residents who have registered at previous auctions have saved up to £300 on their home energy bills, so it's well worth getting registered.

The Big Switch brings people together to reduce their energy bills by switching their energy suppliers collectively. The more people who register the better the deals on offer, as it is based upon the bulk buying concept.

The deals offered by the Big Switch are not available elsewhere, and it has been recently reported that up to sixty percent of top energy deals are not available on the standard switching sites. To get the best deal it is well worth registering.

In recent month's five of the 'Big six' energy providers have announced price hikes for people on standard variable rate tariffs, with British Gas announcing a 12.5 percent rise in its electricity prices. The majority of people are on standard variable tariffs (sixty-six percent according to Ofgem) and can potentially therefore make significant savings by signing up to switch.

Since the scheme began in June 2013 the collective savings made by borough residents has topped half a million pounds.

The latest Big Switch has launched this week. To take advantage of the cut price rates offered, people are encouraged to call 0300 555 2345 to register, or you can register online at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch. People will need to have their current tariff details and fuel usage (shown in the most recent bill) to hand.



The scheme is open to all householders, including people living in rented accommodation, those with a prepayment meter and people with a fuel debt of up to £500 or less.

Cllr Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said:

"Our Big Switch energy auctions have proved extremely popular over the last few years with thousands signing up to take part and saving hundreds of pounds on their home energy bills. The deals offered through the scheme are market leading, so people will be getting real value for money. With winter on its way now is the ideal time to be registering to save, as well as keeping warm and well at home."

To find out more call Dudley Council Plus on **0300 555 2345** or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch.



Save cash on your energy bills

Sign up to Dudley's Big Switch and we will get energy companies to compete to win you as a customer by offering you the very best market leading deals, not available elsewhere.

At previous Big Switches people have saved up to £300 on their gas and electricity bills.

Register by 9 Oct 2017

Simply call Dudley Council Plus on
0300 555 2345

Or you can also register online and find out more information at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch



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Police blunders that led to 24 data breaches in year

LOSS of technology, misuse of systems and missing encrypted USB devices – those were among 24 data breaches by officers at West Midlands Police in one year.

The breaches over 2016 also included access requests to incorrect addresses and inappropriate disclosure. The latter was the most common incident within the force with seven cases. It can include things like wrongly releasing information to third parties such as personal details, sending information to the wrong people or even putting inappropriate things on social media.

Author brings ancient tales to the library

AN acclaimed author is giving a talk at Kingswinford Library tonight (Thursday).

Natalie Haynes will be at the library in Market Street to speak about her latest novel, *The Children of Jocasta*, at 7pm. Refreshments from 6.30pm.

Birmingham-born Natalie is a regular contributor to Radio 4, as well as appearing as a team captain on three seasons of *Wordaholics*.

The Children of Jocasta is the author's second novel. It follows *The Amber Fury* and *The Ancient Guide to Modern Life*.

Visitors will be able to ask questions following the talk and have their books signed by Natalie.

Tickets cost £2. All proceeds will go to the Friends of Kingswinford and Wordsley libraries. Call (01384) 812740 for details about availability.

West Midlands Police have not provided any specifics on the circumstances surrounding their incidents.

There were five cases of 'loss of technology', four of missing USB sticks, three of using insecure emails and three of 'subject access requests' – people requesting what information is held about themselves – which were sent to the wrong address.

Activists

The other incidents included one breach of 'inaccurate information' and another of 'misuse of systems', of which no other details have been released at this stage.

Civil liberties group Big Brother Watch has said more needs to be done to tackle the number of data breaches. The group says it works 'to ensure that those who fail to respect our privacy, undermine our online security, or fail to protect our personal data, are held to account'.

Last year the privacy activists shone the spotlight on police forces by compiling the number of data breaches between 2011 and 2015, revealing West Midlands Police had committed more than double the number of any other in the period (488).

Grants given to two future sporting stars



Helping hand for rising stars – Leo Handy, left, with Councillor Richard Marshall and Christopher Gardner

TWO future sporting stars have picked up grants from a council to help them fulfil their dreams.

Christopher Gardner, aged 17, and 13-year-old Leo Handy were presented with £500 each by Sandwell's cabinet member for leisure Richard Marshall.

Chris, from Tividale, aims to become a hockey international and Leo is working towards becoming a mem-

ber of the Great Britain weightlifting squad.

Councillor Marshall said: "We know what sacrifices young people have to make to reach the top in any sport and the sacrifices their families make too in terms of travelling, accommodation and dedicating their own time."

Leo, from Oldbury, is already a multiple champion having won the British

Schools Olympic Weightlifting competition for the past three years. He recently achieved two personal bests – lifting 37kg in the snatch and 50kg in the clean and jerk.

Rising hockey star Chris has already been selected to play in the Great Britain Colleges hockey team. The 17-year-old has also played for the Ireland under-18 national team

1.8m votes 'wasted' in the election

ALMOST two million votes in the West Midlands failed to count towards the General Election result in June, according to new analysis from the Electoral Reform Society.

The campaign group said 1,845,299 votes in the region did not go towards electing the winner – 67 per cent of the overall vote.

Darren Hughes, newly-appointed Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society, said: "It is a scandal that millions of people's voices in the West Midlands were ignored in June's General Election."

Undemocratic

"Almost two million votes are being thrown on the electoral scrapheap in the region, under Westminster's broken first past the post voting system."

"At the same time, we see that almost one in five people are swapping parties in the West Midlands – an historically high rate – yet our old-fashioned voting system is failing to keep up. Voters across the region are being let down by the out-of-date and undemocratic way we cast our ballots for the Commons."

Mr Hughes, who was previously deputy chief executive, and a former New Zealand Minister and MP, took over at the helm last month.

Planning to make extensions easier

APPLYING for planning permission in Dudley is set to get easier, according to council chiefs.

Proposals due to get the green light later this month will see Dudley Council adopt a new local development order. This will allow people to obtain written consent for single or two-storey, rear or side extensions.

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What's New

Sept-Dec 2017

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Thurs 14 Sept	17.30-19.00	1 wk.	FREE	
ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS				
Mon 18 Sept	14.30-16.00	1 wk.	FREE	
PORTUGUESE FOR BEGINNERS				
Mon 18 Sept	18.00-19.30	1 wk.	FREE	
FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS				
Mon 18 Sept	19.00-20.30	1 wk.	FREE	
BALLROOM DANCING				
Mon. 18 Sept	18.00-19.30	1 wk.	FREE	
DANCE FIT				
Tues. 19 Sept	18.00-19.30	1 wk.	FREE	
PLAY THE GUITAR FOR BEGINNERS				
Tues. 19 Sept	19.00-20.30	1 wk.	FREE	
SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS				
Tue 19 Sept.	19.00-20.30	1 wk.	FREE	
Wed 20 Sept.	11.30-13.00	1 wk.	FREE	

LANGUAGES

FRENCH				
NEW Beg:	Mon. 25 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	10wks.	£69.00#
Improvers:	Tues. 19 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
Advanced:	Thurs 21 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
ITALIAN				
NEW Beg:	Mon 25 Sept	14.30-16.00.	10 wks.	£57.00#
Improvers:	Mon 18 Sept	09.30-11.30.	11 wks.	£75.90#
Intermediates:	Mon 18 Sept	12.00-14.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
SPANISH				
NEW Beg:	Tue 26 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£69.00#
NEW Beg:	Wed 27 Sept	11.30-13.00.	10 wks.	£57.00#
Cont Beg:	Tue 19 Sept.	14.30-16.00.	11 wks.	£62.70#
Improvers:	Wed 20 Sept.	09.30-11.00.	11 wks.	£62.70#
Intermediates:	Wed 20 Sept.	14.00-15.30.	11 wks.	£62.70#
PORTUGUESE				
NEW Beg:	Mon 25 Sept.	18.00-19.30.	10 wks.	£57.00#
Improvers:	Mon 25 Sept.	19.35-21.05.	10 wks.	£57.00#
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE				
Introduction:	Tues 19 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	4 wks.	£30.40#

BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

COMPUTING : THE BASICS				
Tues 19 Sept.	14.30-16.30	3 wks		£22.80#
COMPUTING SKILLS: INTERNET+ E MAIL				
Tues 10 Oct.	14.30-16.30	3 wks.		£22.80#

COMPUTER COURSES

(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

PHOTOSHOP 1				
Mon 18 Sept.	9.30-11.30	5 wks.		£38.00#
AN INTRODUCTION TO IPAD				
Tues 19 Sept.	09.30-11.30	1 wk.		£7.60#
MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR IPAD				
Tues 26 Sept	09.30-11.30	3 wks.		£22.80#
MASTERING YOUR IPAD				
Tues 17 Oct.	09.30-11.30	3 wks.		£22.80#
START YOUR OWN BUSINESS				
Mon 18 Sept.	19.00-21.00	4 wks.		£30.40#
INTRO TO MANUAL BOOK KEEPING				
Mon 16 Oct.	19.00-21.00	8 wks.		£60.80#
BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY				
Tues 14 Nov.	9.30-11.30.	4 wks.		£30.40#
HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE				
Fri 15 Sept.	09.30-12.30	2 wks.		£22.80#

INTENSIVE COURSES

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER				
Fri 06 Oct.	09.30-12.30.	2 wks.		£22.80#
IMPROVING YOUR OVERLOCKER SKILLS				
Fri 03 Nov.	09.30-12.30.	2 wks.		£22.80#

FAMILY LEARNING

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TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SWIM				
Children 18 mths-4yrs				
Wed 13 Sept.	09.30-10.15.	12 wks.		£40.50#
Sat 09 Sept.	08.50-09.20.	13 wks.		£29.25#
Sun 10 Sept.	12.45-13.30.	13 wks.		£43.90#
SEW TOGETHER				
Thurs 2 Nov.	16.00-17.30.	5 wks.		£28.50#
FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY				
Tues 31 Oct.	16.00-17.30.	5 wks.		£28.50#

HEALTH & FITNESS AND DANCE

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS				
Thurs 21 Sept	18.00-19.00	12 wks.		£45.60
PILATES				
Improvers:	Tues 19 Sept.	19.00-20.00.	12 wks.	£45.60
Improvers:	Wed 13 Sept.	18.30-19.30.	13 wks.	£49.40
Improvers:	Thurs 14 Sept.	19.05-20.05.	13 wks.	£49.40
Improvers:	Thurs 14 Sept.	20.10-21.10.	13 wks.	£49.40
Beginners @ The Oakfield Centre:				
Beginners	Fri 15 Sept.	10.00-11.00.	13 wks.	£54.60#
FITNESS YOGA				
Tues 19 Sept.	20.05-21.05.	12 wks		£45.60
ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:				
Beginners:	Mon. 18 Sept	19.00-19.45.	12 wks.	£48.00#
Beginners:	Tues. 19 Sept	19.00-19.45.	12 wks.	£48.00#
Improvers:	Mon. 18 Sept	19.45-20.30.	12 wks.	£48.00#
Advanced:	Mon. 18 Sept	20.30-21.15.	12 wks.	£48.00#
BALLROOM DANCING				
Beginners:	Mon 25 Sept.	18.45-19.45	10 wks.	£38.00
Imp / Inters:	Mon 25 Sept.	19.50-21.05	10 wks.	£41.80
DANCE FIT				
Tues 26 Sept.	18.00-19.00	10 wks.		£38.00#
Tues 26 Sept.	19.10-20.10	10 wks.		£38.00#

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR				
Intermediates:	Mon. 18 Sept.	19.00-21.00	11 wks.	£75.90#
NEW Beg:	Tues. 26 Sept	19.00-20.30	10 wks.	£57.00#
Improvers :	Thurs. 21 Sept.	19.00-20.30	11 wks.	£62.70#
PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)				
Beginners:	Mon 18 Sept	16.45-17.45	5 wks.	***
Improvers:	Mon 18 Sept	17.45-18.45	5 wks.	***
Intermediates	Thurs 14 Sept.	17.45-18.45	6 wks.	***
*** Please contact Student Services for prices				

HANDICRAFTS

PATCHWORK FOR BEGINNERS				
Mon 18 Sept.	19.00-21.00	5 wks.		£38.00#
UPHOLSTERY SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS				
Tues 19 Sept.	12.00-14.00.	11 wks		£75.90#
SEWING FOR PLEASURE				
Tues 19 Sept.	09.30-11.30.	11 wks.		£75.90#
PATCHWORK SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS				
Wed 20 Sept.	14.30-16.30	11 wks.		£75.90#
UPHOLSTERY & SOFT FURNISHINGS				
Wed 20 Sept.	12.00-14.00.	11 wks.		£75.90#
SEWING MADE SIMPLE SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS				
Thurs 21 Sept.	18.00-20.00	11 wks.		£75.90#
UPHOLSTERY SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS				
Mon 30 Oct.	19.00-21.00	5 wk.		£38.00#

ARTS AND CRAFTS

POTTERY FOR BEGINNERS				
Sat 16 Sept.	10.00 - 12.00.	8 wks.		£75.80#
Sat 16 Sept.	12.30 - 14.30.	8 wks.		£75.80#
GET TO KNOW POETRY				
Thurs 21 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.		£38.00#
CREATIVE WRITING				
Mon 18 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.		£38.00#
<i>Romance and Horror in Angela Carter</i>				
Tue 19 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.		£38.00#
PAINTING AND DRAWING				
Wed 20 Sept.	9.30 - 11.30.	11 wks.		£75.90#
Thurs 21 Sept.	10.00-12.00.	11 wks.		£75.90#
Thurs 21 Sept.	13.30- 15.30.	11 wks.		£75.90#

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS				
Thurs 21 Sept.	19.30-21.00.	11 wks.		£62.70#
LEARN TO SCULPT IN STONE				
Tue 19 Sept.	19.00 - 21.00.	5 wks.		£38.00#
CAKE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS				
Tues 19 Sept.	19.00 - 21.00.	5 wks.		£43.00#
SUGARCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS				
Tues 31 Oct.	19.00 - 21.00.	5 wks.		£43.00#
GET COOKING				
Please contact Student Services for dates, times and prices				
FUN WITH FOOD				
Please contact Student Services for dates, times and prices				

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

TAI CHI MOVEMENTS FOR WELLBEING				
Mon 18 Sept.	19.30-20.30.	6 wks		£22.80#
MINDFULNESS				
Mon 6 Nov.	19.30-20.30.	6 wks.		£22.80#



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Sat 23 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

IPAD FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 30 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

MINDFULNESS TASTER

Sat 30 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

INTRO TO EXCEL SPREADSHEETS

Sat 7 Oct. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

Sat 25 Nov. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

ALTER CLOTHES TO FIT

Sat 7 Oct. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

CAKE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 14 Oct. 9.30-12.30 1 wk. £20.55

SUGARCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 18 Nov. 9.3

18 Teenagers hip hop to the top with Oz groove

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, September 7, 2017

TALENTED teenagers from Sandwell and Wolverhampton took on a summer experience with a difference as they joined a professional dance company to put on a hip hop dance show at major venues in the West Midlands.

Pupils from St Matthias School in Wolverhampton have been hosting the three-week residency with London-based ZooNation Dance company to stage a unique take of The Wizard of Oz.

Groove On Down the Road was staged last weekend in the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton and from September 27 to 29 is being performed at the Patrick Centre at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The show features 25 teenagers from St Matthias, Coppice Performing Arts, Our Lady and St Chad's schools in Wolverhampton and the Shirelands Academy in Sandwell.

St Matthias has raised more than £25,000 to give the students the opportunity to work alongside some of the leading hip hop dancers in the country.

Engaging

Rhimes Lecointe, who is directing the show, is a long-standing member of the ZooNation team and runs her own dance company, Boadicea, in London.

She said: "We love bringing our work to new audiences and engaging with young people; we have been able to select a really talented and enthusiastic cast and the show is a great introduction to our style of hip-hop theatre."

Mya Wright, aged 15, from Our Lady and St Chad's School, is playing Dorothy in the show. She said: "Having the opportunity to play the main part has given me the confidence to believe I can do anything in the future; this is such a cool project."

Councillor Claire Darke, Wolverhampton's cabinet member for education, said: "It is fantastic to see our young people given this incredible opportunity."

The show is staged 7.45pm nightly, see birminghamhippodrome.com for tickets.



The iconic Blood Brothers returns in April



Katie Markham will bring The Adele Songbook to life



Beautiful - The Carole King Musical comes to the Grand in June

Grand! Hello to Adele show

TICKETS for a host of top-drawer shows are now on sale – ranging from classics of the stage to twists on modern classics.

Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre has lined up a variety of shows, including the return of Willy Russell's Blood Brothers.

This will take over the theatre for a six-evening stint next April. The classic drama is one of a number of new shows announced, including a production from Black Country comedy group The Fizzogs, who will be bringing Freezin', their take on Disney classic Frozen, to life.

The Fizzogs, who shot to fame in 2014 after a video of their dancing grannies' routine went viral, will perform at the Grand on November 16, the night after Katie Markham takes the songs of Adele to the city as part of the Someone Like You – The Adele Songbook show.

Katie was hand-picked by Adele herself on Graham Norton's BBC Adele Special in 2015 to take on the role of the multi-million-selling singer for a stage production and has not looked back since.

She will be performing hits from the re-

cord-breaking albums 19, 21 and 25 on November 16. Tickets are on sale for a special Afternoon with Christopher Biggins show, hosted by BBC Midlands Today's Nick Owen, taking place on October 27.

Fans will be able to join in with a talk on the career of the 68-year-old actor, who has appeared in programmes including Porridge, Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em and Surprise Surprise in what is a unique show for the theatre.

Wowed

Shows on sale for next year, include an evening with Buddy Holly and The Crickets with The Rock and Roll Orchestra. The show has wowed audiences across the globe from Cardiff to California in recent years and will return to Wolverhampton on March 7.

After surpassing 10,000 shows a long time ago, Blood Brothers is still going strong and the show, dubbed the Standing Ovation Musical for its ability to invariably get crowds on their feet at the end of the evening returns, to the city on April 16, running through to April 21.

Bringing the new series of shows to a close is Beautiful – The Carole King Musical, which tells

the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom.

It goes from her being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in pop music history. Beautiful will be at Wolverhampton Grand from June 12 to 16. T

Tickets can be bought by calling 01902 429212, in person at the box office or online at grandtheatre.co.uk.

Become a Friend of the Grand by calling the box office or online at grandtheatre.co.uk/support.

Next month marks one year since the Grand raised the curtain on improvements made during a £1.1 million revamp of the historic theatre.

It saw the ground level of the theatre completely redesigned to be more convenient for people visiting the box office for tickets and information.

The merchandise and confectionery kiosk were also replaced by a bar during the work, which bosses said added a touch of razzmatazz to the site and was inspired by 1920s theatres.



An afternoon with Christopher Biggins

From Ozzy, to Jimmy Page, to Phil Lynott, Mick Wall has met them all



Not so sweet, Jon Bon Jovi



Sharon and Ozzy, with his metal bolt



Legendary lothario, Phil Lynott



Led Zep during their beard-wearing stage, before Mick met Jimmy



Rick Parfitt, who loved his cars

Wall of rock spills beans on legends

So, what is it like to hang out with rock stars? Well, that depends on which rock star you happen to be hanging out with. In the case of Ozzy Osbourne, for example, it has always been very easy.

If you recall Ozzy from his hit TV reality show, The Osbournes, you'll have a good idea already. The main word is 'funny'. Ozzy is hilarious. He can't help it. He just is. A very dry sense of humour, delivered with that singsong Brummie accent.

From the first time I met Ozzy, at a rehearsal studio in London in 1980, down on his luck at the time after being sacked from Black Sabbath for being "too crazy" even for them, all I seemed to do was laugh. For years his wife Sharon and I used to joke that Ozzy should have his own comedy show on telly,



Legendary rock writer MICK WALL tells the Chronicle what it's like hanging out with legends such as Guns 'n' Roses, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Lou Reed as a preview to his spoken word evening at Bilston's Robin 2 in December.

never imagining that in the future such a thing as 'reality TV' would exist.

The last time I saw Ozzy was when he and Sabbath played in Birmingham earlier this year. Ozzy was staying in such an enormous hotel suite it came with its own butler. He hadn't changed one bit.

"Bloody hell, it's Mick!" he boomed across the vast space of his 'reception' room. "Come and feel the bolt in me neck!"

He was referring to the slab of surgical steel that now sits pinning his shoulder together, the result of his infamous quad bike accident. "Now I really am the godfather of heavy metal," he laughed. Not all rock stars are as good fun as Ozzy, though.

Some, like Jon Bon Jovi, are much more serious offstage than you would ever imagine from their upbeat image. I knew Jon before he got famous and he was like a kid in a sweet shop. Then after hits like 'Livin' On A Prayer' turned him into a superstar, he seemed to live life with a permanent frown on his face.

Then there are the deeply mysterious ones like Led Zeppelin's leader and guitarist Jimmy Page. On a visit to his mansion one day, Jimmy took me into a room where he sat in an armchair. Like some James Bond villain, he had a secret panel of buttons built into it.

Jimmy pushed one and the opposite wall slid back to reveal four massive oil paintings. "What do you make of these?" he asked, non-

chalantly. I walked over and had a closer look. All the paintings seemed to depict similar scenes. Some sort of lavishly depicted ancient garden in which there were tiny forms of hundreds of humans writhed in pain and torment.

"Very nice," I said with a straight face. Then he took me outside and showed me the garden. It was about the size of the West Midlands.

For most rock stars it really is all about girls and cars, though.

Phil and I would walk into a pub and he would tell me to grab a table and wait for him. I'd sit down while he stood at the bar, jacket collar up, stooped over looking glum. Within minutes a young woman would walk over and ask him what was wrong, why he was so down? Phil would sigh. Then another young woman, sometimes two or three would join him and want to know the same thing.

He would buy a tray of drinks and lead the girls over to the table where I was sitting. I would be expected to help keep the talk going while Phil would lead the girls outside one by one and, well, get to know them better.

When it comes to cars, it's hard to think

of any rock star I have known that has been more obsessed than the late Status Quo guitarist Rick Parfitt. He would ring me sometimes and hold his phone next to whatever new revving engine he'd just acquired – could be a brand new Porsche, or a vintage Rolls Royce. "Just listen to her purr," he'd say, almost purring himself. He'd soon grow bored with them though and go and buy another.

I recall one occasion when I visited him at his riverside home in London, and he took me to see his brand new Bentley Continental. He proudly showed me around the car, told me the whole story about how he was one of the first 50 people in the world to have one.

I rang him a couple of weeks later and asked how he was getting on with his new car. "Oh, that," he said. "I sold it. Bought myself a brand new Merc." Or was it another Roller? I can't remember now. Whatever it was, it would definitely have purred though.

● Mick Wall presents his 'Wall Of Sound' at Bilston's Robin 2 on December 5 and tickets, priced £8, are available from www.therobin.co.uk or by calling (01902) 401211.

Beanz meanz more money for hospice



Louis Johnson in the middle of his bath of beans, which helped to raise £197 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge

BRITISH Citizen Youth Award winner Louis Johnson made a meal of his latest fundraiser.

The 11-year-old spent 90 minutes sitting in a bath full of beans and collected £197 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge. The challenge took place during the hospice's family fun day in Oldswinford on Saturday.

It took the contents of 150 tins to fill the bath and Waitrose provided 100 of these free of charge with the remainder being donated by other well wishers.

Louis had no trouble sitting there for longer than the three members of Fizzogs, the dancing grannies, who also took part in the event.

His proud mother Teresa, aged 44, speaking at their Tethenhall Wood home: "He only got out when he did because he wanted to help raise money for Cure Leukaemia and Wolves goalkeeper Carl Ikeme, who is currently being treated for the disease."

Louis, named Young Star of the Year at last year's Express & Star Great Big Thank You awards, became the first person in the West Midlands to receive the recently introduced British Citizen Youth Award last October in recognition of his fundraising.

The hospice broke records at its annual family fun day in its grounds on Hagley Road, Stourbridge. This year raised more than £14,000 thanks to more people attending the event than ever before.

A record number of attractions included entertainers such as Wagner, The Fizzogs, Gurcharan Bhujhangy.

Ambulance crews losing hundreds of hours at A&E

AMBULANCES were kept waiting for more than 1,000 hours before they could drop off patients in just one month at hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Patients were forced to wait up to two hours in ambulances and corridors before being taken into hospital care, according to new figures.

At Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, paramedics wasted 338 hours waiting to handover patients in June. One patient had to wait for one hour and 56 minutes.

At New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton the paramedics were forced to waste 262 hours in the same month, at Walsall Manor 172 hours, Sandwell 121 hours and at Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital in Stafford 172 hours.

The time wasted is calculated by adding the total number of waiting hours AFTER the targeted 15 minute handover period.

Penalties

Hospital trusts risk financial penalties for delaying ambulance staff – £200 per patient waiting between 30 and 60 minutes, £1,000 per patient waiting more than an hour.

West Midlands Ambulance Service deploys hospital ambulance liaison officers to work with bed managers to help with the handover process.

A spokesman said: "A&E departments are working hard to provide the high-

est standards of care. Only around a third of A&E patients arrive by ambulance so at times of peak demand, handover delays do occur."

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust Chief operating officer, Paul Bytheway, said said: "The new emergency treatment centre opening on November 20 will help reduce handover times as we are increasing our ambulance triage bays from four to 12."

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust said: "We are seeing record numbers of ambulances arriving. The care we provide for all our patients will always be the high quality, safe care they deserve."

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust chief operating officer Rachel Barlow said: "We apologise to patients who have been kept waiting longer than normal." Walsall Healthcare NHS trust said: "There are moments of high demand which may lead to ambulance waits."

The information was obtained via a Freedom of Information request.

By Alex Ross

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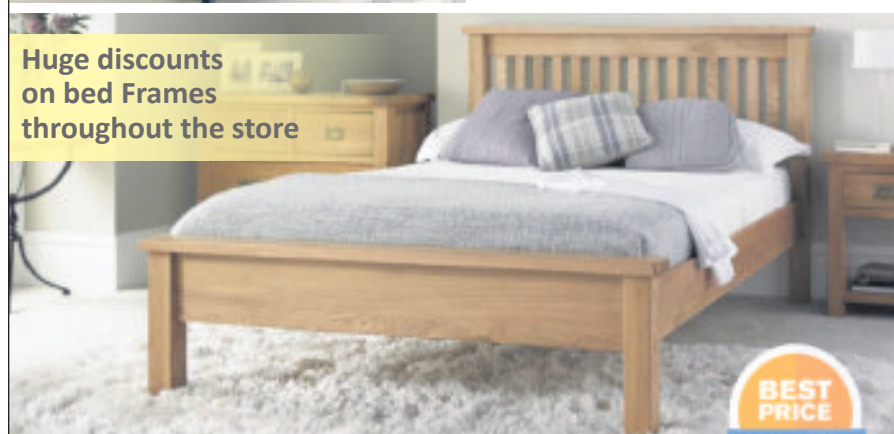


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R-amping it up – Jamie works with the stars



He's a guitar hero

A life-long love of guitars has led Jamie Davey to the stars

Guitar-mad Jamie Davey has turned a boyhood obsession into a career that has seen him work with some of the biggest names in music.

From Robert Plant to Status Quo, stars have been queuing up for his technical expertise and custom-made instruments.

At his home in Pattingham, the 55-year-old repairs damaged guitars so that they can continue to be played for years to come.

In his workshops, he also builds new electric guitars from scratch according to a customer's personal specifications.

"It all began when I started playing the guitar when I was 14. I distinctly remember taking my first electric guitar to pieces because I was fascinated by how it worked," Jamie says.

As he got older he began fixing broken guitars in his spare time, until one day he was approached by the owner of Big Deal Music in Wolverhampton and offered a job carrying out repairs in the shop. He worked there for around five years before deciding to branch out by himself and open his own shop in Shifnal in 1999 with the ribbon cut by friend and Slade guitarist Dave Hill.

"When I started I only wanted to repair and build guitars but then I started selling a few items and the retail side really took off.

"We were doing very well and we were able to expand but then in 2008 we had the credit crunch. It went quiet and the phones stopped ringing. At the same time, I was noticing the impact the internet was having.

"Suddenly there were people selling guitars and amps online at trade prices. People weren't prepared to pay the retail price when they could get the same thing online cheaper with next day delivery.

"So I decided to close the shop in 2009 and move the business back home, concentrating on repairs and building like I'd wanted to do from the start.

"I was worried what would happen to my customers but as I was winding down my business I gave out cards with my home address and they followed me. I've got incredibly loyal customers and that means the world to me," adds Jamie, who has sons James, 27, and Ben, 26.

He can have between 40 and 50 guitars in his workshops for repair at any one time and has often

restored instruments that have parts missing and even ones that have been smashed to pieces.

"I had a lad bring a guitar to me that had been reversed over by another member of his band.

"He was distraught because it had sentimental value. It was a £2,000 guitar and it was smashed all of the way through the middle.

"I was able to put it all back together and repaint it so it looked like new. He was over the moon.

"I had another one where the headstock had been completely broken off. I was able to sculpt a new one for it so you couldn't tell the difference.

"It went from being a piece of junk fire wood to a guitar again," he explains.

Among his celebrity clients have been Led Zeppelin frontman Robert, who he describes as one of the nicest people he has ever met.

"I've repaired three guitars for him. He's really down to earth, like a next door neighbour. He comes around for a cup of tea and plays with the cats," says Jamie, who is also a guitar tech for Wolverhampton singer/songwriter Scott Matthews.

His association with Status Quo began when he was recommended by a friend to keyboard player Andrew Bown, who was looking for someone to make a telecaster guitar for him.

When he went to deliver the instrument to him, the other members of the band took a fancy to it and placed their own orders with Jamie.

"It was brilliant just doing one guitar, I didn't expect them to order another five or six in one go.

"They've now had 33 guitars from me. They've been very good to me over the years. It was very sad when Rick Parfitt died last year.

"I've visited them at the studio and when they've been tour. They're in Wolverhampton in December so I will go and say

'hello' then. It's a real honour to work with them because I've been a fan since I was young," says Jamie who's also worked with Toyah Willcox and her husband Robert Fripp.

When it comes to custom orders, Jamie will either build the guitars from scratch or assemble them using ready-made parts, with prices starting from around £750.

The bodies are made from either solid alder, ash or mahogany. The shape is cut out using a template with the neck and headstock being made from separate piece of wood, usually maple. Sections are then removed from the body so that the neck and electrics can be installed. It's a labour of love, says Jamie.

"If I'm building from scratch, it can take around three to

four months but if the hard work is already done for me it will take about a month.

"Each guitar comes with a specially engraved back plate displaying the customer's name and the instrument's serial number. It's normally blank so I like to add this personal touch," he says.

"The beauty of a custom-made guitar is that people can pick and choose what they like.

"Some people like a thin neck, while others prefer a thick telegraph pole and you can pick any colour you want.

"Some customers like solid colours, others like them to be see-through so you can see the grain of the wood through the paint.

Spanners

"It's a great feeling when I handover a guitar to someone and their face lights up."

A more unusual project saw him create a sparkly, silver star-shaped guitar for ABBA tribute act Björn Again, which was her replica of the one used by Björn Ulvaeus at the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest.

He also sets up new guitars, which involves working with the bridge, nut, and neck adjustments to suit the player and improve their sound.

"Someone will buy a guitar from eBay and it will sound like a bag of spanners so I will set it up for them.

"I've also been brought new guitars and been asked to age them. People like to have a battered guitar that looks a lot older than it because they think it looks cooler," explains Jamie.

"Whether I am setting up a guitar, repairing a guitar or building a new one, I will always treat someone else's guitar like it was my own.

"The best thing about my job is that it doesn't feel like one, I'm just doing my hobby every day."

Heather Large



Highly-strung – Jamie at work



Jamie with Robert Plant. Right, Status Quo



Wood like to meet – outside his workshop

The ricket

21

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, September 7, 2017



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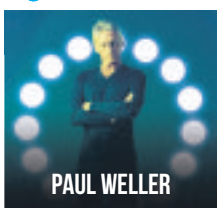
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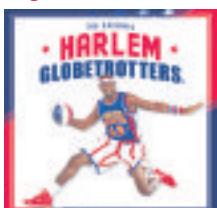
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X Factor's Diana has Look of Love

Diana Vickers, who found fame on X Factor, will recreate the magic of Dusty Springfield when she stars in Son of a Preacher Man at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to September 16.

The production tells the story of three broken hearts, one Soho hang-out, and the only man who could ever help them.

Diana was thrilled to be asked and announced the role on Instagram: "Very excited to announce I will be starring in the brand new stage show of Son of a Preacher Man. "Very much looking forward to working with a great team on what I think will be a gem of a show! Hope to see some of you there."

Choreographer Craig Revel Horwood added: "I am delighted to bring to life for the very first time this wonderful story created by Warner Brown, with soulful songs from the legendary Dusty Springfield's iconic music catalogue.

"I hope that audiences will come to love this warm-hearted and uplifting new musical as much as I do." New Alexandra Theatre spokeswoman Fiona McCartney says: "Welcome to the Preacher Man, the swinging 1960s Soho joint where the kids danced the night away to the latest crazes and dared to dream of love, while the legendary owner, The Preacher Man himself, dispensed advice to cure the loneliest of hearts.

"Only, that was a long time ago and all that remains are the memories, the stories and the myths. Until now, that is, when three random strangers, generations apart but all in need of help with their hopeless love lives, are inexplicably drawn to the site of the original venue.

"The Preacher Man is long gone, but his son, with help from the wonderful Cappuccino Sisters, might just find it in himself to channel the spirit of The Preacher Man and once more give these three lovesick strangers the look of love."

ATTENTION

The play features the greatest hits of Dusty Springfield, including The Look Of Love, I Only Want To Be With You, Spooky and the classic Son of A Preacher Man.

Directed and choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing's Craig, it stars Diana (Little Voice, Rocky Horror Show, X Factor), Debra Stephenson (The Impressions Show, Bad Girls, Coronation Street) and Ian Reddington (Benidorm, Shameless, Robin Hood).

Diana first came to the public's attention when she was a semi-finalist on the 2008 edition of X Factor. She hit the road with her fellow finalists after the show before landing a career in the West End.

She had been prepared for stardom by taking singing lessons as a youngster in Blackburn – though she didn't sing professionally until adulthood.

Her X Factor entry came about with a cover of Damien Rice's hit The Blower's Daughter, which dazzled Louis Walsh and Cheryl Cole among others. Simon Cowell described her as a Marmite artist – who he loved.

He later signed her to his label and her debut album, Songs from the Tainted Cherry Tree, later became a number one and earned her a gold disc.

Gradually, the star also developed an acting career after starring in a newly-revived West End production of Jim Cartwright's The Rise and Fall of Little Voice in October 2009 at the Vaudeville Theatre, on The Strand, London.

She played a character called Little Voice, impersonating such singers as Shirley Bassey, Edith Piaf

Diana will bring the hits of Dusty Springfield back to life



Hard work – in rehearsals



Star cast – Debra, Ian and Diana



and Judy Garland.

She also moved into the movies after landing a debut film role alongside Clint Eastwood's son in The Perfect Wave, which was about surfing and the power of life and death. Diana developed a fashion line, described as boho-chic and hippie-influenced, that was inspired by Brigitte Bardot and Marilyn Monroe. And she has remained busy ever since, combining her fashion dreams with roles in theatre.

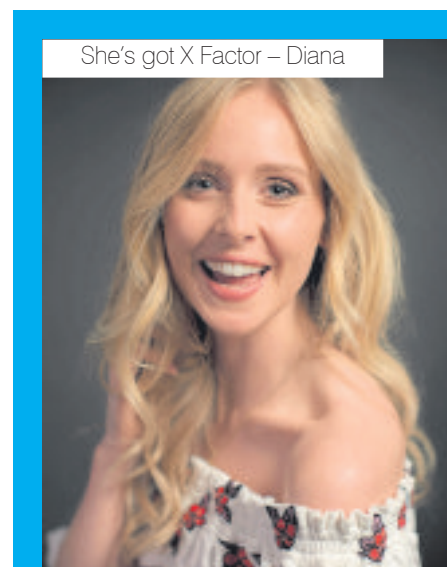
Most recently, she played Janet in a touring production of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. And there are plenty more roles that she'd like to play. She's a fan of Grease and would like to play Sandy. "I'd love to. Although Rizzo would be incredible, you'd rather be Rizzo wouldn't you, because she's just sexier? I like bad characters!"

Though she works formidably hard, Diana takes time out to switch off and relax. Her favourite hobby is reading and she gets sucked into a good book.

"I do a lot of baking when I'm stressed. And I love exercising, running, gym classes, yoga, interval training. Then just normal things like chilling with my friends, playing music loudly... and having a glass of wine after the show always helps!"

• For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

She's got X Factor – Diana



The Human League



1980s hit-makers are in a League of their own

One of the biggest British bands of the 1980s will be giving fans Electric Dreams when they perform at Wolverhampton Racecourse on Saturday.

Synth pop legends The Human League will be in concert following a race meeting on September 9.

The Sheffield new wave outfit, led by Phil Oakey and also featuring vocals from Joanne Catherall and Susan Ann Sulley, will play as part of The SunBets Music Live 2017 meeting at Dunstall's all-weather track.

The band, famed for their cross-Atlantic number one hit Don't You Want Me – which sold more than 20 million – will play their classic 1980s hits including Love Action, Mirror Man, Fascination and Human.

When the group played in the city in December 2014

at the Civic Hall, an Express & Star review of that gig hailed the group as 'modern pop music perfection'.

The Human League have returned to the area in recent years and they performed at Utttoxeter Racecourse last year, marking 35 years since the release of their best-selling album Dare!

Since 1978, the Human League have released nine studio albums, four EPs and 30 singles with Don't You Want Me entering the top 20 again just four years ago.

Tickets to the event start from £35.95 with family tickets for £110. These can be bought directly from the racecourse by calling 01902 390 000 or online at the wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk website.

The flat racing takes place from 5.25 to 8.30pm with the concert held after the final race.

Dave is back on the home Beat



The Beat, featuring original co-frontman and singer Dave Wakeling, have a homecoming gig in Birmingham for the musician who now resides in Los Angeles.

The gig on Friday, September 15, part of a UK tour, is Wakeling's first in the city since the death of the original band's Birmingham-based veteran saxophonist Saxa.

Wakeling has been putting the finishing touches to his first studio album under The Beat moniker since Special Beat Service in

1982. Tentatively titled Here We Go Love, it's an album of uplifting ska rhythms, infectious pop hooks and some Californian sunshine which reflects Wakeling's adopted home.

The Beat exploded out of Brum in 1979 as part of the same ska/rock/reggae scene that launched The Specials and UB40. Dave Wakeling enjoyed further success in the States with supergroup General Public and released a solo album No Warning in 1991.

Wakeling has played an estimated thousand shows as the frontman of The English Beat, most in the USA where he continues to command a devoted audience.

Straddling 2 Tone, post-punk, The Beat had a host of hits – including Mirror In The Bathroom, Too Nice To Talk To, Hands Off She's Mine and hit covers of Tears Of A Clown and Can't Get Used To Losing You.

For tickets to see Wakeling's seven-piece incarnation of The Beat at Birmingham's O2 Academy 2, supported by Frantic Action and Ruder Than U, see academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham/ website.

Another version of The Beat, featuring Ranking Roger, are touring with The Selecter.

Whip smart play is domestic drama

A powerful play about privilege, power and how the past can affect the present is being staged at Birmingham Rep's venue The Door.

The Whip Hand by Scottish playwright Douglas Maxwell is a domestic drama set in Glasgow. When Dougie chooses his 50th birthday party to right an old wrong, it causes a family rift. With Jonathan Watson, from TV sit-com Two Doors Down, as Dougie, The Whip Hand runs at The Door until next Saturday, September 16.



Marvelettes time for Tamla Motown fans

Motown legends The Marvelettes are coming to the Black Country. Soul enthusiast and Northern Soul DJ Hitsville Chalky is bringing the 1960s girl group over from Detroit for a concert at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Friday, September 15.

The Marvelettes, who were actually signed to Tamla until that merged with sister label Motown, had one of the label's first US hits with chart-topper Please Mr Postman and had a UK hit with When You're Young And In Love.

The group features original member Katherine Anderson. There will also be DJ sets from Hitsville Chalky, Gary Parker and Catcombs legend Pep. For tickets see tickets.bhllcivic.co.uk/boxoffice/book/1056 or call 01384 573381.

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CHOICE



Radzi Chinyanganya

Cannonball (ITV, 7pm)
Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which 24 contestants are tasked with traversing a series of water-based challenges and custom-made inflatable obstacles, each designed to test their speed, accuracy, height and distance. The most successful contestants then claim a chance to launch themselves 'cannonball-style' at a moving target on the surface of a deep-water tank, all in the hope of nabbing the show's 'priceless' Cannonball Cup. Frankie Bridge, Radzi Chinyanganya, Ryan Hand and Maya Jama all join Andrew at the poolside to commentate on the action.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadia's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Great North CityGames. Gabby Logan presents coverage from the Newcastle Gateshead Quayside. **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. **6.10** **Pointless Celebrities.** Ruth Badger, Solomon Akhtar, Carl Fogarty, Jimmy Bullard, Craig Phillips, Nikki Grahame, Jamie Laing and Alex Mytton compete in a reality TV-themed edition. (R) **7.00** **Strictly Come Dancing Launch Show 2017.** New series. The pro-celebrity ballroom contest returns, with an opening spectacular featuring last year's champions Ore Oduba and Joanne Clifton performing their winning routine, plus music from Shania Twain and Rita Ora. The line-up of this year features former Holby City star Chizzy Akudolu, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks alumnus Gemma Atkinson, 2008 X Factor winner Alexandra Burke, and radio comedy star Susan Calman. Radio 4 broadcaster the Rev Richard Coles, TV presenter Brian Conley, EastEnders' Davood Ghadami (Kush Kazemi), Good Morning Britain's Charlotte Hawkins and The Saturdays' singer Mollie King. Also reading the boards are This Morning's Ruth Langford, Holby City actor Joe McFadden, JLS's Aston Merrygold, Paralympian Jonnie Peacock, TV chef Simon Rimmer, and Debbie McGee, whose late husband and performing partner Paul Daniels previously took to the dancefloor in 2010. This year, the "Queen of Latin" Shirley Ballas will be replacing Len Goodman on the judges' panel, with Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell all returning to appraise the talents of the amateur dancers and their professional partners. **8.40** **BBC News:** Weather. **9.00** **Last Night of the Proms.** **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest top-flight matches. **11.55** **The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world. **12.25** **Film:** The Rookie. (2002) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.15 How We Won the War. (R) **6.45** The Lancaster: Britain's Flying Past. (R) **7.45** **Film:** Vivacious Lady. (1938) **9.15** **Film:** The Fox and the Child. (2007) **10.45** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **11.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) **1.00** Coast Australia. (R) **1.50** **Film:** Emma. (1996) Jane Austen drama, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. **3.45** **Meatmind.** (R) **4.15** University Challenge. (R) **4.45** Only Connect. (R) **5.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **6.15** **The Big Family Cooking Showdown.** Culinary competition hosted by Zoe Ball and Nadiya Hussain in which two families face a series of challenges based on the realities of everyday meals. (R) **7.15** **Last Night of the Proms.** Katie Derham presents live from London's Royal Albert Hall, where the BBC Proms' signature Last Night concert gets under way. Conductor Sakari Oramo leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus this evening, as they accompany soprano Nina Stemme in a performance of music from Wagner's Tristan and Isolde. The ensemble celebrates 100 years of Finnish independence with renditions of Sibelius's Finlandia and Kodaly's Budavari Te Deum, with help from soprano Lucy Crowe, mezzo Christine Rice, tenor Ben Johnson and bass John Relyea. Also featuring this evening is the premiere of Finnish composer Lotta Wennakoski's Florence, and a performance of Malcolm Sargent's An Impression on a Windy Day. **9.00** **Film:** X+Y. (2014) Premiere. A specially awkward teenager finds it difficult to communicate with people, but finds comfort in his passion for numbers. However, while training to take part in the forthcoming International Mathematical Olympiad, he finds love with a kindred spirit. Comedy drama, starring Asa Butterfield, Rafe Spall and Sally Hawkins. **10.45** **Film:** What Women Want. (2000) A womanising executive gets a new insight into life when he accidentally gains the ability to hear the thoughts of the opposite sex. Romantic comedy, with Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt. **12.45** **Film:** Miss Bala. (2011) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Star Wars. The Yoda Chronicles. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Haydock. Coverage of this afternoon's meetings at Haydock Park, Kempton Park and Ascot. **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **The Family Chase.** Bradley Walsh hosts a family-themed edition of the game show. The French family from Wiltshire pit their general-knowledge know-how against that of professional quizzers. **7.00** **Cannonball.** Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which 24 contestants are tasked with traversing a series of water-based challenges and custom-made inflatable obstacles, each designed to test their speed, accuracy, height and distance. The most successful contestants then claim a chance to launch themselves "cannonball-style" at a moving target on the surface of a deep-water tank, all in the hope of nabbing the show's "priceless" Cannonball Cup. **8.00** **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents as the nationwide talent contest continues apace in the third rounds of auditions. Another selection of would-be stars submit themselves for approval by uncompromising resident judges Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell. **9.15** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** **10.20** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.35** **Film:** Untold 93. (2006) Fact-based drama about the fourth plane hijacked in the September 11 attacks, which was stopped from reaching its target by the passengers. With Christian Clemenson and Trish Gates. **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.35** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.05** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Big House, Little House. **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Shakespeare's Tomb.** Documentary charting a two-year-long archaeological investigation of William Shakespeare's grave at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon. The grave itself bears a curse condemning anyone who disturbs the Bard's final resting place, reading "Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear/To dig the dust enclosed here/Blessed be the man that spares the stones/And cursed be he that moves my bones". For the first time since Shakespeare's death 400 years ago, the church has authorised archaeologists to conduct a study on the site, giving Kevin Colls of Staffordshire University, leading geophysicist Erica Utsi, and Cambridge historian Dr Helen Castor a chance to utilise state-of-the-art radar technology to build up a picture of what lies beneath the surface without disturbing the hallowed site. As the team reveals, the results of their examination contained a few unexpected surprises. (R) **8.00** **Great Canal Journeys: India.** Part two of two. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the Brahmaputra river, where they follow an old trade route, meet a community of monks and take a ride on an elephant. (R) **9.00** **Film: X-Men: First Class.** (2011) Superhero adventure prequel, starring James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Jennifer Lawrence. **11.40** **Film: The Tourist.** (2010) Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie. **1.25** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.20** The State. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.55** Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.05** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** Murdered: Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Steve are sent to north London to evict a young Romanian mother who owes £6,000 in unpaid rent, but when they arrive, they discover a family home that is not quite what it appears to be. Meanwhile, in Kent, Brian and Alan turn up the pressure on a debtor who has admitted to owing more than £7,000, but claims he cannot afford to pay up – despite having a garage full of expensive tools. Later, in south-west London, Brian accompanies Delroy as he tries to recover a £400,000 debt from a residential property, and when the pair trace the defaulter to an upmarket cafe, the man in charge lies about his identity. (R) **7.00** **Cricknet on 5: England v West Indies.** Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the third day of the Third Test, which took place at Lord's. **8.00** **The Great Fire: London Burns.** Dan Jones, Suzannah Lipscomb and Rob Bell take a look at the Great Fire of London by walking the route the fire took across the city, hour-by-hour and street-by-street. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Fulham v Cardiff City and Sunderland v Sheffield United. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in League One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Portsmouth and Rotherham United v Bury. **10.30** **Hijacked.** **11.30** **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** (R) **11.55** **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip. (R) **12.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Exploding Sun. **4.40** Access.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.30** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **12.30** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **1.30** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **2.30** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **3.30** Close **ITV2**
11.20 The X Factor **12.20** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.00** 100 Talent **2.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.50** Film: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **3.50** FYI Daily **5.55** Film: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.45** Film: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** Film: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **6.50** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** Film: American Pie 2 (2001) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: American Pie 2 (2001) **11.10** Family Guy **12.55** Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **3.00** Teleshopping **ITV3**
11.10 FYI Daily **11.15** Film: The Secret Garden (1993) **12.10** Film: Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match (1973) **1.50** Wycliffe **2.55** Foyle's War **11.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
3.30 Quincy ME **4.30** The Professionals **5.35** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Best of Jarrod and Brandi **6.30** Storage Wars: Best of Darrell and Brandon **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Double Jeopardy (1999) **12.15** FYI Daily **1.30** Film: Double Jeopardy (1999) **1.20** Minder **2.25** Tommy Cooper **E4**
11.30 Film: The Tigger Movie (2000) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **1.55** Streetmate **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The A-Team (2010) **11.20** Naked Attraction **Film4**
11.00 Destry Rides Again (1939) **1.00** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **2.50** Madmuke (2010) **4.35** The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) **6.20** Seven Years in Tibet (1997) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** Shut In (2015) **1.00** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 (1986) **3.05** Close

Olde Queens Head

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SEPTEMBER**

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 - **Children under 5 eat FREE**
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CHOICE



Grace Jones

All New Most Shocking Moments in Pop (Channel 5, 9pm)
A countdown of outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Harty on his chat show, George Michael's dubious driving, Solange's bust-up with Jay-Z, rock 'n' roll excess by 1970s rock band Deep Purple and the triumphant occasion when Sophie Ellis Bextor beat Victoria Beckham to the number one spot in the charts. With contributions from Rick Wakeman, Cheryl Baker, Liz McClarnon, Matt Richardson and Nina Myskow.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.05** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** The Andrew Marr Show. **9.30** Great North Run. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the half-marathon that runs from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields, with approximately 57,000 runners set to take part this time around. **1.30** BBC News: Weather. **1.45** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Film: Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers.
6.30 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison presents the show from Cornwall's Rame Peninsula, revealing the story of the area's last fisherman, who continues to use the traditional methods of his forefathers and is and is passing his skills on to disadvantaged youngsters. Plus, Tom Heap goes in search of Britain's traditional craftsmen and women.
8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate the history of two pictures, both of which are believed to be by Paul Gauguin, one of the giants of 19th-century art.
9.00 Strike – The Silkworm. Part one of a two-part adaptation of the second of JK Rowling's detective novels featuring private eye Cormoran Strike. The detective is hired by the wife of a notorious author to find her missing husband, only to discover the writer has been murdered in a manner remarkably similar to a scene in one of his books.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Swansea City v Newcastle United at the Liberty Stadium and Burnley v Crystal Palace at Turf Moor.
11.30 People Just Do Nothing. Steves kidnaps one of the KOLD FM team, driving Grindah to arrange a showdown with his rivals. Miche takes Angel's role in the school play a little too seriously.
12.00 Film: The Rebound. (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Catherine Zeta-Jones and Justin Bartha. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Instant Gardener. (R) **6.45** Garden Rescue. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** The Hair Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) **11.00** My Life on a Plate. (R) **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Film: Grand Prix. (1966) Motor racing drama, starring James Garner. **4.30** Coast. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R)
6.00 Great North Run Highlights. Ore Oduba presents action from the half-marathon that ran from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields, as Vivian Cheruiyot attempted to retain her title in the women's elite race. With commentary from Steve Cram, Andrew Cotter and Paula Radcliffe, and reports by JJ Chalmers, Denise Lewis and Colin Jackson.
7.00 Tribes. Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan sets out to gain a new understanding of fierce predators by meeting different tribes that hunt and live alongside them. He begins on Owari in the Solomon Islands, where the local men encounter dangerous sharks almost every day, even swimming alongside them as they feed for the fish they need to survive. (R)
8.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? The remaining candidates head to a secret facility in Sweden, where they are deliberately deprived of oxygen to see if they can recognise the signs of hypoxia.
9.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assess the profit-making potential of business plans involving beach towels, a range of novelty plush goods, and a form of packaging based around air.
10.00 Best Album 2017: Meet the Mercury Prize Nominees. Documentary previewing the shortlisted artists for 2017, hearing from musicians from the vanguard of grime, performance poetry and guitar rock.
10.30 Film: Broken. (2012) An 11-year-old girl witnesses a man being attacked by her neighbour, which destroys her innocent outlook on life. Drama, with Eloise Laurence, Tim Roth and Cillian Murphy.
11.55 Film: False Trail. (2011) Mystery, with Rolf Lassgard.
2.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.55** Holby City. (R) **3.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** The Chase. (R) **11.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **1.00** Film: You've Got Mail. (1998) Romantic comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. **3.15** The X Factor. (R) **4.30** Victoria. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather. **5.40** ITV News: Weather.
6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Julian Clary, Sara Cox and Alan Halsall answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.
7.00 Coronation Street. Anna discovers Faye's plan to run away with Seb, family secrets threaten Peter and Toyah's future, and a frightened Rita has a go at Norris.
8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the fourth round of auditions, as more would-be stars perform for Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell.
9.00 Victoria. The queen is moved by the plight of a silk weaver in Spitalfields, and decides to throw a lavish medieval ball at the palace to help, with all attendees wearing outfits made in the area. Albert has his doubts about the plan, but finds himself seduced by the grandeur of the event. However, while the evening proves a success, reuniting old friends and creating new romances, it is greeted with outrage by the discontented public. **10.05** ITV News: Weather.
10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines the case of Gary Nelson, who murdered a bouncer and a community police officer, and was the subject of a 13-year investigation. (R)
11.205 Gold Rings. (R)
12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Last Man Standing. **6.25** Last Man Standing. **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Film: The Core. (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **4.20** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.25** The Great British Bake Off. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke presents the entries in the Historic and Workshops and Studios categories. Among the finalists in these areas are a shed where a bestselling trilogy of novels were written and a built in Wales used for making prosthetic limbs for children around the world.
8.00 From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier. Levison Wood completes the final 1000 miles of his journey, travelling through Armenia and the Republic of Iran as he heads for the shores of the Caspian Sea. He meets a photojournalist documenting the struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan for the contested state of Nagorno-Karabakh, and risks heading to the front line, where he meets a family caught in the crossfire and soldiers serving in the trenches. He also visits one of the world's largest salt lakes and joins a biker gang for a tour of Tehran. Last in the series.
9.00 Film: Kingsman: The Secret Service. (2015) Premiere. A streetwise teenager is taken under the wing of his dead father's old colleague, an agent working for a super-secret spy organisation. Will the youngster prove to be a chip off the old block by proving useful during a battle against a twisted, hi-tech genius? Action comedy based on a comic book, starring Colin Firth, Taron Egerton and Samuel L Jackson.
11.35 Film: Sin City: A Dame to Kill For. (2014) Compilation of four stories of crime and betrayal set in a dangerous city. Crime thriller sequel based on the comic-book series, starring Eva Green and Mickey Rourke.
1.25 Bruce Springsteen: In His Words. (R) **2.50** Gillette World Sport. **3.15** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **1.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **2.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **3.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **4.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **5.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R)
6.05 All New Traffic Cops. Officers from the West Yorkshire Safer Roads team pursue a disqualified driver through Bradford, while a pensioner is knocked down in a hit-and-run incident in York. (R)
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v West Indies.
8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce highlights from the second weekend of matches, including Northampton Saints v Leicester Tigers at Franklin's Gardens.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 All New Most Shocking Moments in Pop. A countdown of outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Harty on his chat show, George Michael's dubious driving, Solange's bust-up with Jay-Z, rock 'n' roll excess by 1970s rock band Deep Purple and the triumphant occasion when Sophie Ellis Bextor beat Victoria Beckham to the number one spot in the charts. With contributions from Rick Wakeman, Cheryl Baker, Liz McClarnon, Matt Richardson and Nina Myskow.
11.55 The Last Hours of Elvis Presley. Forensic pathologist Dr Richard Shepherd re-examines the medical evidence relating to the death of the American singer, who died in August 1977 at the age of 42. (R)
12.55 SuperCasino. **3.10** Liberace: In Life and Death. (R)

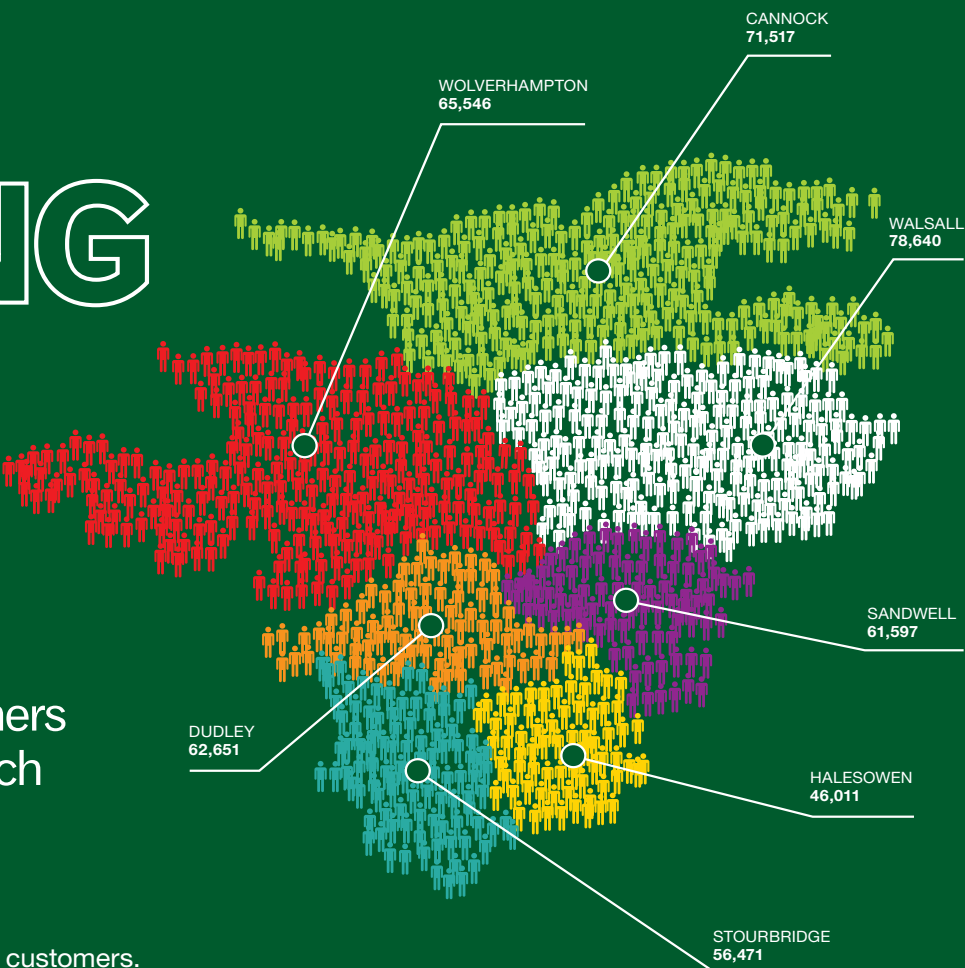
DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Making of King Arthur **8.00** The Joy of Train Sets – The Model Railway Story **9.00** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The 21st Century Race for Space **11.30** Horizon: Can We Make a Star on Earth? **12.30** Precision: The Measure of All Things **1.30** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **2.30** The Joy of Train Sets – The Model Railway Story **3.30** Close
ITV2
11.10 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style **11.50** The X Factor **1.05** Take Me Out **2.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.40** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.25** FYI: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **6.25** Film: King Kong (2005) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: King Kong (2005) **10.00** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.25 Wycliffe **1.30** Film: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind (1975) **3.05** Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **11.10** Foyle's War
ITV4
4.00 Pawn Stars **5.00** Film: The Pink Panther (1963) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05** Film: The Pink Panther (1963) **7.30** River Monsters **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** Car Crash Britain **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.05** Film: United 93 (2006) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: United 93 (2006) **1.15** Film: Halloween H20 (1999) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20** Film: Halloween H20 (1999)
E4
11.00 Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Streetmate **2.05** Film: Robots (2005) **3.55** Toy Story Toons: Partysaurus Rex **4.05** The Goldbergs **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Naked Attraction **11.50** Gogglebox
Film4
11.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **1.00** Just Wright (2010) **3.00** Carry On Cabby (1963) **4.45** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **6.35** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **9.00** Gladiator (2000) **12.00** Dogtooth (2009) **1.50** Cyrus (2010) **3.40** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Frozen Ground, Channel 5, 11.05pm

An Alaska state trooper tries to bring a serial killer who has been terrorising the Anchorage area for 13 years to justice. When a woman escapes the maniac's clutches, the lawman seeks her help in identifying him, but finds he will have a hard time earning her trust. Fact-based crime drama, with Nicolas Cage, John Cusack and Vanessa Hudgens. (2013)

TUESDAY

A Wife's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman who has just recovered from a mental breakdown returns home to pick up the pieces of her life – but her plans are thrown into disarray when a teenage girl claiming to be her husband's long-lost daughter arrives on her doorstep. Drama based on a true story, starring Jennifer Beals. (2014)

WEDNESDAY

Wall of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm

When a university student goes missing, her mother, a former police officer, goes in search for her. But what she encounters is a wall of academia bureaucracy and cover-ups that point to an abuse of authority stemming all the way to the government. Thriller, starring Ireland Baldwin, Victoria Pratt and Morgan Taylor Campbell. (2016)



Rogue, Friday, BBC1, 12.05am

THURSDAY

Boyfriend Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A grieving mother goes through her dead son's social media accounts to salvage any photos and let his friends know of his death. But when she finds some messages between him and his vindictive girlfriend, she begins to suspect the young woman may have been involved in his death. Thriller, starring Barbie Castro, Patrick Muldoon and Kate Mansi. (2017)

FRIDAY

Rogue, BBC1, 12.05am

A captain taking a group of tourists on a trip through the Australian Outback is persuaded to travel into uncharted part of the river. The travellers then discover they have strayed into the territory of a ferocious crocodile and face a battle for survival. Thriller, starring Radha Mitchell. (2007)

Duo are caught up in a web of intrigue in new series

Typical – you wait months for a new six-part series from Jack and Harry Williams, the writers and creators of The Missing, and then two come along at once.

Yes, on the same evening that BBC1 launches Relik (killer spelled backwards, in case you were wondering), ITV brings us Liar. At first glance, the Beeb's series bears more of the Williams' hallmarks – just as The Missing played out across different timelines, Relik starts with capture of a serial killer, and then goes back to the beginning to explore what made them into a murderer.

However, Liar has a simpler idea, which was part of the plan. The Williams siblings say: "We were excited about exploring something with more dramatic simplicity – a linear story focusing on one single incident.

"In Liar we sought to explore modern day gender politics through a narrative built upon two fundamentally conflicting recollections of one night, in a way which we hope will challenge and

surprise audiences."

If that wasn't intriguing enough, the series also boasts an impressive cast, including Downton Abbey's Joanne Froggatt and one-time Fantastic Four star Ioan Gruffudd, who was tempted back from Hollywood to tackle his role in Liar.

He says: "The reason I'm back home in the UK, and back on British television for the first time in a decade is Harry and Jack's script. I received their scripts in LA, the first three episodes, and sat down to read the first one and then proceeded to read all of them in one go. I just couldn't put them down."

He stars as Andrew Earham, a widowed surgeon who is set up on a date with his colleague's sister Laura (Froggatt), who also happens to be Andrew's son's teacher. She's been reluctant to look for love following the end of her long-term relationship, but their date initially seems to go very well.

However, the morning after it's

clear that something has changed as gossip and accusations begin to circulate, and the two find themselves drawn into a web of deceit.

Gruffudd says: "When Andrew is accused it offends him greatly, his status in the community is very important to him. He's a very proud of what he has achieved, and I think it shakes him to his core, he's angry, and he's shocked. I think one of the driving forces of his anger is the fact that how he is perceived by the world has changed, and I think that really makes him angry."

But is he right to feel aggrieved? It seems that getting to the truth is not going to be easy. Gruffudd says: "Every character in the show has secrets that are revealed at some point or another. We all hide things from one another, we all tell white lies, innocent lies, and sometimes those lies can be exaggerated and can have real consequences. So, not every person in the series is who they are cracked up to be..."



Ioan Gruffudd stars in Liar, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Upstart Crow

BBC2, 8.30pm

New series. Liar is desperate to make a good impression with the College of Herald's so he can get his family a coat of arms and finally make the Shakespeares posh. So when African royal Prince Othello comes to town, the aspiring playwright decides that befriending him is the perfect opportunity to make a favourable impression amongst the gentry. David Mitchell returns as William Shakespeare in Ben Elton's comedy, guest starring Steve Toussaint, with Harry Enfield, Paula Wilcox, Liza Tarbuck and Mark Heap.

TUESDAY

Horizon: Mars - A Traveller's Guide

BBC2, 9pm

The world's leading experts discuss where they would go on Mars, if they got the chance, and what they would need to survive on the planet. In the ultimate traveller's guide to Mars and using real images and data, Horizon brings Martian landmarks to life, from vast plains and towering volcanoes to deep valleys and hidden underground caverns, and also show where to land, where to live and even where to hunt for traces of extraterrestrial life. Narrated by Mark Gatiss.

WEDNESDAY

The Other One

BBC2, 10pm

A comedy about two sisters who share the same name, Catherine Walcott, but had no idea the other existed until their father passed away. One sister, Cathy, has a fiancé, a Duke of Edinburgh Award, and a pension. The other sister, Cat, has a pay-as-you-go phone. The two sisters are complete opposites in every way, and the only thing they seem to have in common are their names. Both of them have always longed for a sister – just maybe not each other. Starring Ellie White, Lauren Socha and Rebecca Front.

THURSDAY

No Limits:Vietnam

BBC1, 8pm

For the curious with long memories, this is not a revival of the old Lisa Maxwell/Jenny Powell entertainment series from 30-plus years ago. Instead, it centres on six Britons who embark on an ambitious road trip by modified motorbike and modified 4x4 along Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh Trail. A tricky enough trek for the able

bodied, but as everyone on the journey is disabled, travelling almost 1,000 miles, through traffic-jammed cities to mountainous rural tracks pushes our ambitious travellers to breaking point. They will be staying with remote indigenous people; exploring stunning cave systems, and meeting locals - many of who live with disability courtesy of the Vietnam War. A refreshingly different travelogue which should inspire millions.

Lego Masters

Channel 4, 8pm

The three remaining teams are challenged to create a build that reflects the inner workings of a child's storytelling imagination. They must each listen to a six-year old's story and then have three hours to bring their tales to life using Lego. The best two then take part in the final master build, for which they have two weeks to realise a structure measuring 2x2



Comedy Playhouse: Static, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

metres and using up to half-a-million bricks. They will be unveiled to the public at the Design Museum in London, where comedian and Lego enthusiast Dara O Briain joins Matthew Ashton to choose the winner. Last in the series.

FRIDAY

Cold Feet

ITV, 9pm

Baby-making miscommunication drives a wedge between Adam and Tina, while Karen's new business partner is concerned by the health of her accounts. Jenny inadvertently drops her colleagues in it when she tells her boss they could afford to lose a few employees. She will get to choose who makes the cut, but back home Pete is horrified by her behaviour and begins to wonder just what he has unleashed. Comedy drama, starring James Nesbitt, Leanne Best, Hermione Norris, John Thomson, Fay Ripley and Robert Bathurst.

Comedy Playhouse: Static

BBC1, 10.35pm

One-off sitcom about a man who makes plans to move back in with his parents – only to find they have sold the house and moved to a static caravan park in Margate. Co-written by and starring Rob Beckett, with Alison Steadman and Phil Davis.

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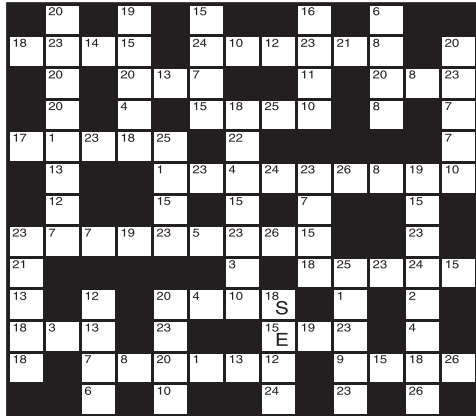
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BRAIN GYM

No.446

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	M	H	E	U	T	G	W	K	Q	Y	L	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	A	S	P	D	J	V	O	Z	C	X	N	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

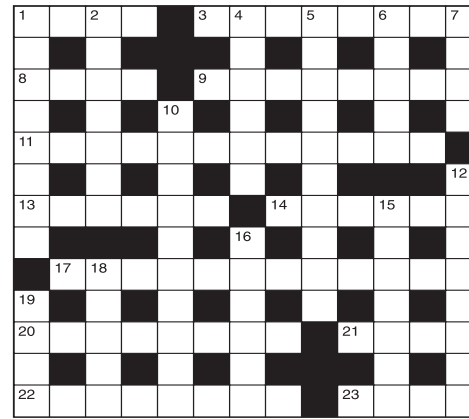
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A blow on the wrist, perhaps (4)
3. Cheers ironically when soldiers' quarters are seen (8)
8. Paper appearing again in the morning (4)
9. Crop made to be set beside others (8)
11. Bury part at the crossing (12)
13. A doctor with one foot loose (6)
14. Stagger on the street in a leisurely walk (6)
17. Study not permanent at the same time (12)
20. It's a disadvantage to lure a defender out (8)
21. Ancient Queen who achieved nothing (4)
22. Feeling that makes one hand on? (8)
23. Where the responsibility lies? (4)

Down

1. Church dignitary has vehicle to take Linda out (8)
2. Praise insincerely when some of the sparkle lost? (7)
4. Loves to read so (6)
5. Solicit again for a second occurrence (10)
6. The vehicle is to leave with freight (5)
7. The team has a pretentious air (4)
10. It's lucrative for those who are healthy and skilled (10)
12. Pleasure-loving youths in the theatre? (8)
15. Ivan, too, gets enthusiastic applause (7)
16. Hits fishing vessels (6)
18. Examinations in which results are poor also (5)
19. Poetry does, in a way (4)



Quick Clues:

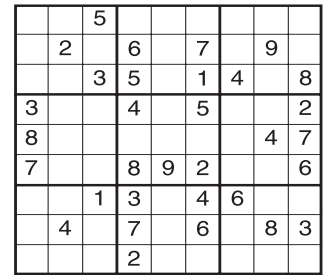
Across

1. Bucket (4)
3. Souvenir (8)
8. Plunder (4)
9. Stick out (8)
11. Teach thoroughly (12)
13. Very hot (6)
14. Smirk (6)
17. Good spirits (12)
20. Respite (8)
21. Equitable (4)
22. Uninhabited (8)
23. Otherwise (4)

Down

1. Mollify (8)
2. Fit for use (2,5)
4. Mistakes (6)
5. Impalpable (10)
6. Scepticism (5)
7. Smoke (4)
10. Fortuitous (10)
12. Keep (8)
15. Overcome (7)
16. Influence (6)
18. Obeys (5)
19. Retired (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

2	5	9	7	6	1	8	4	3
7	8	4	5	3	2	9	6	1
1	3	6	4	8	9	7	2	5
4	9	5	2	1	6	3	8	7
8	1	2	3	9	7	6	5	4
3	6	7	8	5	4	1	9	2
6	4	8	1	2	3	5	7	9
9	2	3	6	7	5	4	1	8
5	7	1	9	4	8	2	3	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Masterpiece; 9 Trips up; 10 Awash; 11 Theta; 12 Sweater; 13 Poster; 15 Sparse; 18 Perches; 20 Aorta; 22 Rated; 23 Expound; 24 Threatening. Down: 2 Amine; 3 Testate; 4 Repose; 5 Image; 6 Chapter; 7 State papers; 8 Chargehands; 14 Scratch; 16 Playpen; 17 Ascent; 19 Hedge; 21 Rouen.
QUICK - Across: 1 Fashionable; 9 Riddled; 10 Out; 11 Panic; 12 Teacher; 13 Neatly; 15 Status; 18 Unaware; 20 Put on; 22 Trend; 23 Diocese; 24 Predominate. Down: 2 Add on; 3 Helical; 4 Oddity; 5 Aroma; 6 Latchet; 7 Propinquity; 8 Represented; 14 Amateur; 16 Typhoon; 17 Seldom; 19 Aided; 21 Treat.

Quiz

1. Which actor married ex-Pan's People dancer Babs Lord in 1975?
2. To which family of fish does the bream belong?
3. In which year did China's elder statesman Deng Xiaoping die?
4. How many symphonies did Brahms write?
5. What is another name for common heather?
6. How many ares are there in a hectare?
7. Which Kirov Ballet star defected in 1970?
8. Which Royal residence was rebuilt by John Nash in 1821-36?
9. Which Verdi opera is based on the Dumas novel The Lady of the Camellias?
10. What was J Arthur Rank's first name?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The Eucharist; 2 Fez; 3 One pound coin; 4 Saccharin; 5 Peter Cook; 6 Master of the King's Musick; 7 Brandy; 8 Bratislava; 9 Berkshire; 10 Heidi.

Niner: NURSEMAID

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

648496254
377657
4961

gives a creepy crawl,
gives a second creepy crawl,
gives creepy crawlies.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FANTASTIC CARVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK

They always say never judge a book by its cover so we decided to check out The Park Lane Tavern in Colley Gate, and I have to say what was on offer in there was a total surprise.



It serves a carvery option 7 days a week from midday which consists of a choice of 4 meats, turkey, beef, pork and gammon and accompanied by stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and up to 12 vegetables, topped off with what they call their "secret recipe gravy" known also as what mother used to make! All this for just £4.99 for a lunchtime meal or £5.99 evenings and Saturdays and £7.99 for Sunday lunch represents extremely good value by today's standards.

They also don't forget their mini diners with 'Kids Eat Free' Monday to Saturday between 3pm and 6pm and during school holidays it's All Day Monday to Saturday.

But it doesn't stop there they also have a full main menu consisting of the classic pub favourites such as steaks, mixed grills, burgers and fish and chips, where the fish would not be out of place in any issue of 'Moby Dick'. To finish is there very tempting dessert menu, that's if you have room after the size of meals you get at The Park Lane Tavern.

Then if that's not enough choice for you you can also choose for the breakfast which is served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 08.30am until 11.00am. Their breakfast is a buffet style 'All you can eat' with enough choice to satisfy any diner from eggs 2 ways, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns, black pudding, grilled fresh tomatoes, toast & fried bread. There's even



jam for your toast if you still not full after all that.

Half Price Monday

They also host special evenings like their 'Half Price Monday' which has proven to be very popular, and why not, already reasonably priced selected main meals off their main menu (which includes steaks) at half price served between 5pm and 8pm every Monday. Also their psychic evenings where for £15 you get a reading from a medium and a carvery, for those believers amongst you that must be a bargain.

You get a very friendly feeling when you enter The Park Lane Tavern and that's mostly down to the staff. Happy to see you and always keen to help. They have a lot of regular customers and it's been known for a customer's drink to be poured and waiting for them before they reach the bar, you don't see that at many places nowadays.

There are no airs or graces at The Park Lane Tavern, you get delicious food at great prices served by happy staff in a comfortable environment. No wonder this place has people returning time after time.

Finnish off with Moomin magic

TOSSED between clawing waves with only a wooden oar and magician's top hat, Moominpappa embarks on a whimsical journey to find a distant lighthouse.

It's 34 years since I read the story of a snouty patriarch who frolics with seahorses and befriends The Groke, a desperately lonely figure scarred with a permanent scowl, who turns ground to ice wherever she treads.

But I do recall a handwritten inscription in my copy of Moominpappa At Sea, promising the Moomins would take me on a special adventure one day.

Now I'm standing in front of a first edition illustrated book sleeve, part of a 2,000-strong collection of drawings, triptychs and related paraphernalia on rotated display at the world's only Moomin Museum, which recently opened in Tampere, a two-hour train ride north from Helsinki.

PHENOMENON

Since Finnish artist, sculptor and illustrator Tove Jansson published her first book in 1945, the magical Moominvalley has become a worldwide cult phenomenon; children are drawn to the playful, fanciful characters, while the droll humour and philosophical allegories resonate with an older audience.

Tove's Moomin work was donated to the Tampere Art Museum in 1986, after Helsinki City Museum declined the collection on the basis it wasn't 'proper art'. A temporary exhibition of 100 pieces in the Tampere gallery's basement lasted for three decades, until structural damage resulted in an evacuation three years ago.

Moomin Museum Director Taina Myllyharju was given an 'almost unlimited' budget to employ the best architects, artists and designers in her quest for creating

Visitors to the impressive Helsinki Cathedral



The Rauhaniemi public sauna in Tampere



a new space in the park-fringed Tampere Hall.

A reading library stocks the 12 Moomin books in multiple languages, and a shop sells themed postcards and stamps (conveniently, there's a postbox on site) and exclusive merchandise given the seal of approval by Tove's niece, Sophia Jansson.

"We even have the world's only Moomin conservator," Taina proudly proclaims.

Restoring the works, particularly the detailed triptychs Tove worked on with her life partner, graphic artist Tuulikki Pietila, was a painstaking business. Often, the

women would use anything they could find lying around in the summer cottage they shared on remote island Klovharu. These colourful 3D scenes were ephemeral snatches of imagination; they weren't designed to last.

Crossing a wasteland on spindly, insect-leg stilts, Moomintroll and Sniff stare up at a cobweb-shrouded model schooner. The Jansson family heirloom forms the centrepiece of a tableau from the apocalyptic Comet in Moominland, which critics have linked to post-war gloom and the looming spectre of nuclear attacks.

And in another carefully crafted model, pieces of

Pietila's and Tove's own jewellery festoon a winter scene where Christmas is a fearful creature who must be appeased with a fir tree.

I get the impression that with every seashell collected and each piece of Styrofoam painted and glued, the two artists climbed further into their fantasy world and the act of doing became a form of escapism.

Under the cover of darkness, I comfortably sink into the Moomin's make-believe world, with the help of several interactive displays

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LINDOPS LANDSCAPES
All Landscape Work Undertaken
No Job Too Small or Too Big
FREE QUOTATIONS
All aspects of Tree Surgery,
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Est. 25 Years
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• Garden tidy up's
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• Special rates for OAP's
• Gutters Cleaned
• Fencing and Sheds Painted/Creosoted
• Chipper Hire
• Complete Garden Ripout
• Rubbish Removal
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Please call: **0121 602 3815** / **07979 980951**

R.A. GARDEN SERVICES

Established 24 years
Gardening & Landscaping Services
Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting
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• Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared
FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS
FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:
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R & S Gardens

- All garden work undertaken
- Hedges and lawns cut
- General tidy and rubbish removed
- Garden landscaping and fencing work

Telephone: **07851 323303**

Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section
offers you a wide range
of local businesses
and tradesman to deal
with your needs and
requirements.

Household Appliances

Washing Machine Repairs and all White Goods



"Don't go
and buy a
new one,
get it
repaired..."

AA DOMESTICS
41a Hagley Mall, Cornbow Centre
0121 5509800

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GREAT SAVE!

THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY
Express & Star Final whistle

Mot's

MOT
£27.99
with this advert
FREE RE-TEST

Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ
0121 559 6001



Oven Cleaning

For a friendly local independent
oven cleaning service
CLEANOVEN

We clean all types of domestic
ovens, cookers, traditional stoves,
hobs, extractors and microwaves

Call us for a **FREE** quote

Tel: 01384 393168
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To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...
01902 319590

2

E-mail us at...
mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country
House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Local Specialists

Plastering

C.A. Plastering
For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.
No job too small **07538 718264**

DH PLASTERERS
FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs to complete rooms
GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES
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K S SERVICES
All types of General Repairs to your home and garden
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JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES
Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques
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No Job Too Small
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Choice of patterns
Quality Workmanship
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HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING
(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)
iphe All installations and repairs
Supply and fit or fit only
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TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes
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Local Specialists
Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

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ALL WEATHER ROOFING
Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding
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● Gutters Cleaned From £15
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on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
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- Flat roof specialist
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- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting
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WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE
SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing
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● Fascias ● Softs ● Dry Verge
● Pointing ● Gutter Cleaning And Repair
Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
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Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.
FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE
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Crossways Motor Bodies

- Motor Body Work Specialists
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- From a minor bump to major repairs
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30 Years Experience



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We also supply a car and van to none fault or insurance claims
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Station Road, Old Hill, Cradley Heath, B64 6PL

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Full Window Wizard Services Available



- Misted Units Replaced
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Call us on...
01902 319590

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E-mail us at...
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Post to...
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MEMORIALS**
Modern and traditional memorials

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1

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elderly & disabled

STANNAH STAIRLIFT almost as
new, Left hand straight. £100. Also
electric orthopaedic bed, vibrates.
£100. 07955 012456.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS recondi-
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

bikes

ELECTRIC BIKE top quality, Claud
Butler UN20, 5 months old, genuine
reason for sale. Step through
frame. £750 ono. 07810 110400.

car boot sales

**GIANT THURSDAY
CAR BOOT SALE**

This Thursday
and every
Thursday
6am - 2pm at
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A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
35x12 caravans from £10,000. GYM
Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?
www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433

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Motorhome**

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Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
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Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

BAILEY PAGEANT

1999,
4-berth with awning,
good clean condition,
new tyres fitted.
£2,300.
07944 930966.



**BAILEY PAGEANT
PROVENCE 7
4-5 BERTH.**
Hardly used.
With motor mover.
Full awning including two
extensions.
Porch awning.
Hook up.
Waste and water.
Wheel lock.
Driving mirrors.
£8,250.
07878 101157.
Halesowen.

SIX BERTH

CARAVAN FOR SALE

BRIDGNORTH

Eight years old.

2 bedrooms.

New carpets.

Excellent condition.

Beautiful site.

Private fishing and clubhouse.

Fees paid till March 2018.

£9,000.

07504 870652.

DAMON CHALLENGER

MOTOR HOME

2002.

Extended side, sleeps six, 34 ft

long, 6.5 litre turbo diesel

engine. Automatic gearbox.

Fully serviced, MoT June 2018.

Approx 55,000 km, own

generator, air con.

£22,750 ono

Tel 0121 520 5318 or 07580

886112.



HIGHLEY PARK HOME

12 month residential site, park

home lodge. Fabulous views

own garden and drive way.

Near to Highley shops, bus

service.

£89,950

07774 715830

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All Caravans Wanted

Any Age or Condition

CASH WAITING*

*Immediate collection

*Call Bill on 07825 325 913

WANTED

ALL CARAVANS

Any age or condition

Also motorhomes wanted.

TOP PRICES PAID

Immediate collection.

CALL THOMAS

07717 280 996

www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

CARAVAN WANTED Can collect

assap. Caravan wanted. Call me on

07717 090817.

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED.

No objection to work, anything

considered. Please telephone

07980 365757.

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR

Sunday, 10th September

No Sale Sept 24 due to Cycle

Race. Next Sale October 8

KINVER COMMUNITY

CENTRE, DY 6ER

10.30am - 4pm

Tel: 01384 894464

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For items upto £250.

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expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any Advertiser
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bonding or
insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

massage

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage
Therapist Home / Hotel. To book
appointments call 07437 569187.

3
**Home &
Services**

furniture

DARK RED LEATHER Settees, two,
two seater sofas, one slightly
marked, good condition £250, must
collect. 01902 784051.

G-PLAN WASHINGTON gold 3-
piece suite, sofa, chair, accent
chair, footstool, good clean con-
dition, £250. 01384 872350.

L SHAPE CORNER GROUP

SOFAS

With Chaise lounge, beautiful

antique chocolate leather /

suede, all unused. Excellent

quality and styling.

cost over £2,000 accept £895.

07787 636984.

THREE PIECE SUITE Traditional

style. Two seater and two chairs.

Excellent condition. Can view. £250

ono. 01384 872350.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements
(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertise-
ments must clearly differentiate

between Private and Trade.

VARIOFLEX SINGLE BED 313

base + drawer headboard +

handset. Excellent condition. £250

ono. 01384 872350.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your ad-
vertisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is

their responsibility to inform the

publishers of any mistakes or inac-
curacies on the first day of publica-
tion.

items wanted

A Genuine Lady Buyer!
Cash paid £300+ per ounce for 9 car-
at scrap gold. Any amount collected!
Sovereigns £200+ each. Watches,
Coins, Medals & more.
Highly Recommended!
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

OLD POCKET and wrist watches
wanted, all conditions, also
menders clearances, parts, etc.
01746 765278. 07773 345218.

OMEGA WATCHES

WANTED

By Collector.

In any condition.

TOP PRICES PAID.

Please call **KEN** anytime on

07984 047597.

READERS ARE ADVISED
to carefully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any
of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus
any old Crash magazines wanted,
also any old your Sinclair mag-
azines wanted. 01902 892918.

A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS**

Any gauge or age

Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/
any live steam. Also Die Cast,

Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.

01384 836219/07891 713547

thetrainmaster67@

hotmail.com

holidays

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any Advertiser
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bonding or
insurance scheme.

**mind, body
& soul**

massage

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage
Therapist Home / Hotel. To book
appointments call 07437 569187.

3
**Home &
Services**

furniture

DARK RED LEATHER Settees, two,
two seater sofas, one slightly
marked, good condition £250, must
collect. 01902 784051.

G-PLAN WASHINGTON gold 3-
piece suite, sofa, chair, accent
chair, footstool, good clean con-
dition, £250. 01384 872350.

L SHAPE CORNER GROUP

SOFAS

With Chaise lounge, beautiful

antique chocolate leather /

suede, all unused. Excellent

quality and styling.

cost over £2,000 accept £895.

07787 636984.

THREE PIECE SUITE Traditional

style. Two seater and two chairs.

Excellent condition. Can view. £250

ono. 01384 872350.

items for sale

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items wanted

A Genuine Lady Buyer!
Cash paid £300+ per ounce for 9 car-
at scrap gold. Any amount collected!
Sovereigns £200+ each. Watches,
Coins, Medals & more.
Highly Recommended!
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

OLD POCKET and wrist watches
wanted, all conditions, also
menders clearances, parts, etc.
01746 765278. 07773 345218.

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By Collector.

In any condition.

TOP PRICES PAID.

Please call **KEN** anytime on

07984 047597.

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to carefully consider all of their options

before agreeing to the sale of any

of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus

any old Crash magazines wanted,

also any old your Sinclair mag-

azines wanted. 01902 892918.

**THANK YOU
CLASSIFIEDS!**

**"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract"**

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call

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alarms/security

**Premier
Alarms**

Supplied and Fitted £249

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

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DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

Over 35 years exp

All aspects of building work

Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,

driveways & landscaping.

Discounts offered.

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**QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-
WOOD FLOORING** @ low prices.

Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

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PORTWAY FENCING

SPECIAL OFFER

10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,

gravel boards **£695**

Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.

0121 531 5250

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH

You agree the price, we buy the house...
 • NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
 • FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6
01 384 500 500 **30 yrs**

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
 Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
 Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
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 www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7

Jobs

employment wanted

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
 Requires casual / part time work.
 Own van / tools.
 Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.

8

Motoring

cars over £1500



CITROEN C2 RHYTHM

Very low mileage (30,650), 1.1L, 58 plate, black, 2 female owners, 3 door, abs, electric windows, s/h, MoT, central locking, pas, CD, Sedgley.
 £1,700 ono.
 07468 869622.

BARGAIN

FORD FIESTA 1.25

2009.

Full MoT.

FSH.

Low mileage.

One owner from new.

£3,800.

01902 679798 / 07917 842458.



FORD FIESTA ZETEC

2007, 1.6TDCi, 64,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, fsh, alarm, long

MoT. Superb condition.

£2,295.

01902 897680.



HONDA ACCORD SE I-VTEC 2.0 PETROL

4-dr saloon, 2006 (56), 121k miles, long MoT, silver, alloys, sunroof, EW, EM. Good condition.

£1,750 ono

07792 680247.



MERCEDES E270 CDI

2004, 139000 miles, MOT to Jan 2018, Elegance trim, Full leather, Climate, Sat nav, 6 CD, Full history, Just serviced,

Excellent condition,

£2,950

01562 730897 or

07563 795191. Holy Cross.



MITSUBISHI COLT

2010, 50,000 miles, white, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, cruise control,

pas, alloys, CD.

£2,500 ono.

01384 850448.



PEUGEOT 207CC ALLURE m

2005, 55 plate 46,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT

Amazing condition.

£1,695

01902 897680



RENAULT CLIO RIPCURL

2008, 76,000 Miles, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, MoT, central locking, pas, Alloys, 1149cc 2 door, very

good condition.

£1,699

07879 403302.



VAUXHALL ASTRA

2009, 43,000 miles, convertible grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, alarm,

long MoT, full Vauxhall s/h.

£2,700 ono.

07940 198062.



VAUXHALL CORSA

2008, 1.2, 5-dr, full MoT, central locking, CD player, electric windows, PAS, Air con,

ABS, blue.

£1,695.

01384 891268 /

07722 998594.



VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.8i

2008, 64,950 miles, metallic silver, MoT August 2018, service history, new cambelt, twin sunroof, a/c, Clifford G5

alarm, electric everything.

£1,950 ono.

01902 339655.



VW JETTA 1.6 FSI S

Petrol, 2009, one owner, 63,000 miles, full VW service history, alloys, a/c, radio/CD, 2

keys, 12 months MoT.

£3,495 ono.

01902 850622.

cars under £1500



FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 8V 1.2

3Dr, 55 Reg., in red, only 60,000 miles, former lady owner, full 12 months MoT, stunning condition.

Only £695.

07963 464780 or 07840 175237.

BARGAIN

FORD FOCUS ESTATE

2010, 1.6 TDCi. £30 per year Road tax, silver, near full MoT, PAS, electric windows, remote central locking.

Very good condition,

130,000 miles.

£1,500 ono.

07989 589425.

BARGAIN

FORD KA

Petrol, 53,000 miles, blue. 1.3cc, MoT January 2018, 3 owners, good clean car inside

and out.

£595 ono

07838 897643.

LOOK

FORD PUMA

2001.

Black.

One owner.

50,000 miles.

MoT till December.

£200 drive away.

07906 553661.

RENAULT CLIO AUTOMATIC 1400cc

53 reg, five door, lady owner, 90,000 miles, silver, nine months MoT, alloy wheels, well maintained, any trial welcome, silver, must be clean car, quick sale, £750 ovno.

07962 392175.

Genuine callers only.



VAUXHALL AGILA EXPRESSION

998cc, 5-dr, 05 reg, red, only 62,000 miles, with service history and previous MoT's, two former keepers, MoT until July 2018, excellent condition.

Only £695.

07963 464780.



VAUXHALL TIGRA

2008, 80,000 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, CD,

leather interior.

£1,500.

07966 037636.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL VECTRA LIFE

2006, service history, MoT till May 13, 2018. Well looked after. Excellent condition. Reason to sell.

£1,400.

07980 435999.

classic cars

CLASSIC CAR

FORD ESCORT MK1

1971, 2-dr, total rebuild, new wings, flitches, front panels, original trim, full MoT.

Offers over £12,500.

07710 700187.

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.

01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

scrap vehicles

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
 0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.

01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

MGTF HARDTOP silver, excellent condition, a must have for Winter. £275. 07557 026086.

154 JON

CHERISHED NUMBER PLATE

On retention.

£8,500 o.n.o.

07963 340219.

154 JON

CHERISHED NUMBER PLATE

On retention.

£8,500 o.n.o.

07963 340219.

154 JON

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE BUBBLY LADY 55

Looking for a genuine Man in the Halesowen and surrounding areas, aged between 55 - 63 for Relationship.

Photo appreciated and returned.

Box Number P20939, Express and Star, Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ATTRACTIVE MALE 38

If you are looking for a genuine, honest, caring male who is fun to be around, then look no further!

I enjoy cycling, bowling, cinema, pubs, meals out, walks, holidays etc and would like to meet a like minded mature lady aged 30 to 44 years.

All areas considered. Genuine replies only.

Photo appreciated (returned).

Box Number P20938, Express and Star, Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

BRITISH INDIAN MAN 50

Looking for relationship with slim lady, enjoys travel, meals in / out. All letters will be answered.

Box Number P20924, Express and Star, Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from women wanting discreet ADULT FUN! Call 01216 202445 for full details. Discretion assured!

SMART, ACTIVE LADY, 70 YEARS

WLTm new Friends, likes walking, dancing, museums, cinema, theatre.

Drives, n/s.

Dudley area.

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Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs



FC PERTON CHARTER STANDARD CLUB

U15's players required

Contact Paul on

07592 065735.

general

GRANDDAUGHTER IS LOOKING FOR ANY SURVIVING RELATIVES of

WILFRED THOMAS SHAKESPEARE (deceased 1976) and

ZENOBIA SHAKESPEARE (deceased 1945)

Possibly in the Dudley, Gornal, Sedgley, Wolverhampton and surrounding areas.

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Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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2. Call our Classified sales
 team on **01902 317 878**



3. Self Serve -
 Create your own advert
 in print and online - visit:
 bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Ride 'n' Drive event



**T WALL
GARAGES**



**ORDER YOUR
67 REG
AND CLAIM
£500
FREE FUEL**
Must Be Registered By 30th September 2017
T's & C's Apply

Friday 8th - Monday 11th September at T Wall Garages



**Call now to book
your Test Drive**

01384 288333



Confused about your next car purchase??

Let us help with our *Ride 'n' Drive event*

SPECIAL OFFERS AVAILABLE

**SPECIAL
SEPTEMBER
DEPOSIT
CONTRIBUTION**
up to **£3,000**
4.2% APR
Representative

SCRAPPAGE
SAVE UP TO
£4,950

0%
FINANCE
on selected
models

No obligation
valuation of
your vehicle

**ORDER YOUR
67 PLATE
this weekend
to claim
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The two teams line up ahead of the charity football match, Phoenix in red and the Midland Ace Legends in blue



Chris Marsh, Chris Nicholl, Wayne Thomas and Ray Graydon



Former footballers Tony Daley, Chris Marsh and Peter Bodak



Ex-Albion, Wolves and Walsall striker Don Goodman in action

Phoenix rise to occasion against old favourites

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

A HOST of football favourites rolled back the years in an exhibition match to raise money for grassroots football.

Stars including Don Goodman, Martin O'Connor, Tony Daley, Lee Naylor and James Chambers were all in attendance as a Midland Ace Legends side played out a 3-2 thriller with Walsall Phoenix Veterans.

The event was held to raise funds for Phoenix, who ply their trade in the Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Division.

In glorious sunshine at Aldridge Cricket Club, more than 1,500 people packed in to watch the game and enjoy a host of other attractions including live music, food stalls, bouncy castles, inflatable games and a licensed bar. There was also a 20-team football tournament with junior sides from across the region.

Walsall heroes Ray Graydon and Chris Nicholl took charge of the Midlands Ace Legends' side.

Delighted

But the managerial greats couldn't add another win to their glittering CVs – with Phoenix running out victors.

Their boss, Tom Revitt, admitted he was delighted with how the day went.

"It was absolutely great for our lads to play against some big names," he said.

"To share a pitch with someone like Don Goodman is great for people, like me, who have always enjoyed playing lower league football.

"We had a great turnout, more than 1,500. And what was nice is that football was only half the day. We had live bands, plenty of entertainment for children and a junior football tournament as well.

"It took a lot of work but it's crucial we hold events like this.

"As a club we have got 25 teams now and the cost to run them last year was £60,000.

"We don't have the opportunity to bring in big



Kenny Mower and Wayne Thomas

money through sponsorship – although some of the local businesses do help.

"This event will prove a huge benefit for us in terms of raising money to keep paying those running costs. We hope it will be the first of many."

The Midlands Ace Legends side had been put together by former Walsall midfielder Wayne Thomas. He is now hoping to hold more fundraising matches with other grassroots sides, as well as charities, across the region.

"We put together the Midlands Ace Legends because at charity days or fundraisers there is an appeal to have players who have played for different clubs across the region," Thomas said.

"Chris Marsh is a very good friend of mine and has a lot of contacts.

"We put this side together so when people ask about fundraising days we can cater for all football fans in the West Midlands.

"We had a lovely day, a great turnout and hopefully we'll be able to support other clubs and charities in



Action from the fundraising clash in Aldridge

the future." Arguably the biggest draw on the day was former Saddlers boss Graydon, who twice won promotion during his time in charge at the Banks's Stadium.

The former Villa winger also netted the winning goal in the 1975 League Cup final.

And the 70-year-old, who now lives in Hampshire, admitted he thoroughly enjoyed being back in the Midlands.

"It was fantastic for me to be back around supporters of Walsall," he said. "I absolutely loved it. I wanted to come back because I think events like this are so important.

"It costs an awful lot of money to run a football club, just to keep going, so I'm very happy to help." Spectator Maurice Walsh, from Bloxwich, said everyone enjoyed the day.

"I really enjoyed it and it was great to get autographs from the ex-pros," he said.

"I think having a Midlands Ace Legends side is a very good way to raise money for grassroots football."

Sparring partners go head-to-head in ring

MANNY ZABER and Jack Summers will renew acquaintances after the draw for Black Country Boxing's Super Series: The Super Featherweights was made.

Eight Midlands boxers will compete over three nights to be crowned the Midlands Area Super Featherweight Champion. Quarter-finals take place at Walsall Town Hall on Sunday, October 15, over six three-minute rounds.

Old Hill's Zaber and West Bromwich's Summers are both managed by BCB head of boxing, Errol Johnson, and have shared the ring countless times as sparring partners. Zaber boasts a superior record but Summers is a tough competitor who will be looking to cause an upset.

Chasetown's Luke Jones steps in with Leicester's Joe Ducker.

There's a Second City derby as Birmingham's Paul Holt meets fellow Brummie Waqas Mohammed, while former stablemates and fellow Tamworth residents Louis Fielding and Tamworth's Josh Baillie go head-to-head.

Players on oche for more Grand Slams

THERE will be, at least, another two Grand Slam of Darts at Wolverhampton Civic Hall after the PDC released their tournament calendar for 2018.

The competition will see its 10th anniversary at the Civic in the usual month of November and will also return next year.

Holder Michael Van Gerwen will be back for this year's Slam, from November 11-19. Six-time winner, 57-year-old Phil Taylor, will be featuring for the last time.

New sponsors have come on board to back the next two Grand Slams, Austrian-based betting company Bwin replacing Thai brewers Singha Beer. Tipton's Jamie Hughes is on course to be the Black Country presence, due to his world ranking of No.3 with rival organisation the BDO. One player from the BDO will feature in each of the eight groups with those certain of their places being Glen Durrant and Danny Noppert, plus the Grand Slam debut of Peter Machin, 2017 World trophy winner.

The 2018 Grand Slam has been booked at the Civic for November 10-18.

£1m ex-Wolves star gives talk for hospice

BRITAIN'S first £1m player, former Wolves player Steve Daley, will be giving a talk this month to raise money for a hospice.

The Sportsman's Supper, with fish and chips, takes place on September 22 from 6.30pm, at Stafford Rangers Football Club, Marston Road, on the Astonfields Industrial Estate. It has been organised by Katharine House Hospice in Stafford.

Guests will be able to enjoy dinner while the former footballer talks about his life and career journey which started when he was 15 years old.

Daley joined Wolves as an apprentice and signed as a professional in 1971, making his debut as a substitute in a 4-2 win over Nottingham Forest in September that year. He played more than 200 times for Wolves before moving to Manchester City for a then British record transfer fee of £1.4m in 1979. Two years later he crossed the Atlantic to play in America.

Tickets for the night can be bought for £15 per person at <https://www.khhospice.org.uk/product/kick-katharine-evening-event>



DK runners successful in city marathon

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club members didn't have far to travel with a combination of races taking place in Wolverhampton as part of the city's marathon.

Darren Bishop was first home for the hoops in the half marathon, covering the 13.1 mile distance in 1.26.54 to take 18th place, Dave Norman was not too far behind finishing in 1.28.37 in 21st place and Mark Homer was breathing down his neck in 23rd in 1.29.24.

Helen Tromans claimed first place in the ladies race and was invited into the hospitality tent as a result, claiming 31st place overall in a time of 1.31.19.

Roger Beddard was 143rd in 1.46.00, Nick Ma was 263rd in 1.55.22, Hannah McGuire was 384th in 2.08.57 and Lisa Kendrick finished a place and one second behind. Nicola Wilkinson finished in 541st in 2.41.03.

Taking on the shorter 10k race at the same event Simon Hughes put his lack of training aside to come home in 40.44 to take 20th place and Kathryn Sneyd was 86th in 50.57.

Stretton

Elsewhere, Richard Bate took part in the Stretton Skyline, a 19-mile fell race over the Shropshire hills taking in some high-burning climbs up Ragleyth, Caer Caradoc, Lawley and the Long Mynd.

Despite a couple of navigation errors which added the best part of a mile to the course, Bate finished in a respectable 3 hours 10 minutes.

Eighth defeat of season puts side in seventh spot

WITH two matches remaining Stourbridge conceded their eighth defeat of the season against Sentinel.

Stour are in seventh position in division three of the Birmingham and District league. Four teams face relegation to the recreational leagues.

Brewwood and Worcester Nomads who hold the two bottom spots have each lost 13 matches and must be the favourites for the drop. Two more from pack of six including Stour are vulnerable to be in the drop zone depending on the outcomes of the two remaining games.

Put in to bat Stour went past the double hundred their top order doing a job Harshad Patel (44), Juihar Johal (78), Zain Ul Hassan (44) and a cameo of 45 off 21 balls from Matt Bradley. Andrew Harrison took four wickets in the final overs of the 50 overs match for 38 runs off 10 overs. He restricted Stour from the big shots that were needed to get them to a safety.

In the Sentinel knock Stour bowlers struggled on a batting wicket to take wickets and contain the run rate.

Promotion within grasp for Hales

HALESOWEN'S promotion destiny is in their own hands heading into their final two fixtures of the season.

They saw off Old Elizabethans in a nail-biting encounter at the weekend to stay third in the standings with the race to reach the ECB Birmingham and District League Division One hotting up.

They chased down a total of 185 with just two balls to spare, with Jamie Harris (61) playing a leading role with support from Ed Kilbee (30),

Dylan Ross-Watt (27 not out) and Eddie Rhodes (16). Ross-Watt also starred with the ball with 3-44, whilst captain Richard Brooker (2-35) and Hassan Akram (3-45) put in handy displays.

They will now face a huge trip to Penkridge on Saturday (noon). Skipper Brooker said: "It wasn't our best performance by a long way, but we have kept up our winning streak and at this stage of the season that is all that matters."

The Second XI also triumphed in a tense finale with Walmley, a victory which has seen them

crawl off the bottom of the table, having been rooted to the foot of the standings for 10 weeks, they now have a mathematical chance of survival with a home game against Astwood Bank on Saturday (2.30) followed by Brockhampton.

Aamir Farooque hit 65 whilst Harry Kitchen (42), Scott Jones (31) and Richard Cox (30 not out) helped them reach 231-7. Walsley needed just 41 from their final nine overs but tight bowling and an excellent last over from Jones saw Halesowen sneak victory by just two runs.

YELTZ HOLD ON TO GET A POINT

Halesowen Town 1 Stafford Rangers 1
JACK SHERRATT salvaged a late Evo-Stik League Premier Division point for Stafford Rangers after struggling Halesowen took the lead through on-loan Oliver Finney.

Halesowen had an early let off when Sherratt's cross was headed home by Daniel Westwood but ruled offside.

After 13 minutes, a cross from Kyle Morrison was finger-tipped clear by visiting goalkeeper Adam Whitehouse before opposite keeper Dan Platt collected shots from Westwood and Jack Langston.

It was then Stafford's turn to escape when Whitehouse lost the ball and became stranded out of goal but Lee Chilton's shot was blocked. Richard Gregory's shot was beaten away by Platt.

Halesowen struck the bar after an hour but then grabbed a 62nd-minute lead when Finney turned well to smash home his first Yeltz goal following good work by James Spray.

Substitution

Stafford made a triple substitution and sub Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson flashed a 77th minute shot just wide. Boro finally broke down the home defence to equalise in the 82nd minute when sub Louis Briscoe laid the ball off for Sherratt to smash past Platt from the edge of the penalty area. With two minutes remaining substitute Izak Reid's overhead kick was blocked as Stafford sought a winner.

Halesowen Town 0 Basford United 3

Halesowen were dumped out of the FA Cup by lower league Basford after conceding three goals in a disastrous eight minutes at the start of the second half. Bradley Lewis cleared off the line from Basford's Kieran Wells and Hales' Luke Shearer blazed over the bar before the interval. It all went wrong after the break for Halesowen as Basford romped to victory with goals from James Reid, Liam Hearn and Ashley Grayson.

Cricket T20 proves a smash hit



Himley Cricket Club president Joe Brandrick presents the trophy of Brewwood skipper Jamie Lunn

HIMLEY Cricket Club continue to raise the bar with their Black Country Floodlit T20 competition.

Brewood took the spoils when they rounded off a superb week-long tournament with victory over Wolverhampton in the final.

Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, a Staffs Clubs XI and hosts Himley completed the line-up with all sides able to include a number of guest players from other clubs.

It was a case of third time lucky for Brewwood after missing out in the previous two finals, the real winners were the local cricket fans.

They were treated to excitement during what by common consent was the best T20 tournament to date.

Bruce Thomason plundered a century for Brewwood in the final while Whittington's big-hitting Australian Jayden Levitt also reached three figures for the Staffs Clubs XI and Halesowen respectively. Zimbabwe all-rounder Tendai Chisoro was voted player of the tournament for a series of eye-catching displays that fired Brewwood to glory.

"It felt like it was the best competition we have staged so far," said captain Greg Wright.

Glassboys on the glory trail again

Stourbridge 2 Hednesford Town 0
A GOAL in either half saw off Hednesford Town at the War Memorial Ground on Monday night.

Matt Dodd, who left Hednesford last week, was back at Stourbridge and was in the starting XI against his previous employers.

He was outstanding throughout and behind a lot of Stourbridge's attacking play, providing a chance for Josh Green on 15 minutes with a great cross, but again it went wide.

Jordan Archer scored a cracking opener on 32 with a drive from 20 yards that shaved the post before it went in.

Ryan Rowe had the ball in the net just before the break but it was ruled out for offside. But Rowe did get on the scoresheet on 64 minutes when he got a touch to a Jack Duggan header which was going in.

Loughboro Dynamo 1 Stourbridge 3

Stourbridge will entertain Colney Heath in the FA Cup second qualifying round after defeating Loughborough on Saturday.

The Glassboys - who reached last season's third round proper, beating League One Northampton Town along the way - were on top throughout the game. The home side offered little in attack though Edison Antonio headed wide just before the break.

Stour have also signed winger Pierce Kiemi from Chasetown, along with midfielder Alex Solomon.

Aussies and Indians come to Edgbaston

EDGBASTON is set to host seven days of major match cricket in 2018, with England's International Twenty20 against Australia, their Test match against India and the Twenty20 Finals Day all taking place in Birmingham.

England's meeting with Australia on June 27 will be the only International T20 match in the Aussies' limited overs series. Virat Kohli and the India team return to Birmingham for the first match of a five Test series with England on Wednesday August 1. Joe Root's England will be keen to build on their record at Edgbaston with three consecutive victories and five wins in the last six Tests.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Staff, students and governors of Leasowes High School are delighted with the school's GCSE results this year and wish to congratulate students and staff for their tremendous efforts and commitment to improvement once again.

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

Celebrating another great year of GCSE results.

The staff, students and governors at Leasowes High School are again celebrating a good year of examination results.

65% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English and 60% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in Mathematics. The school has traditionally achieved a high English Baccalaureate score, and this has continued with 18% of the year 11 achieving this mark.

There have been some excellent individual performances

including Nicole Ferro who achieved the top grade (9) in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics and 7 A* grades, including an amazing achievement of full marks in French and Resistant Materials, not losing a mark in either of these subjects. Other top performers include Daniel Harris (1 grade 9, 4 A*s, 2 As and a B), Ross Beacham (1 grade 9, 2 A*s, 3 As and a B), Kaitlin Marley (1 grade 8, 2 A*s, 5 As), Anna Robinson (1 grade 8, 2 A*s, 2 As and 2 Bs), Jacob Bannister (1 grade 8, 1 A*, 2 As and 3 Bs) and Kaitlin Brain (1 grade 8, 1 A*, 6 As).

Interim Headteacher, Matthew Mynott said "We are extremely proud of what our students have achieved. The teachers have worked very closely with our students to maintain the academic standards for our school to Aspire and Achieve. This year has seen the school join the Invictus Education Trust and demonstrates that we are striving to further our academic excellence including the start of our Leasowes Invictus 6th form in September with some of these outstanding achievers. Congratulations must go to everyone concerned in their success."



Emma Ray, Daniel Harris, Ross Beacham, Jacob Bannister, Rebecca Gardner, Alicia Adams, Aaron Mcleod

Top performer Nicole Ferro
all A*+9 grades

LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS 2017

Open Evening tours:

6.30pm - 8.30pm
Tuesday 19th September
Thursday 21st September

Open Morning tours:

9.00am - 11.00am
Wednesday 20th September,
Friday 22nd September
Tuesday 26th September
Thursday 28th September



Tel: 01384 816285 Email: Openweek@leasowes.dudley.sch.uk Address: Kent Road, Halesowen, B62 8PJ Bus routes: 002, 9, 63, 140, 141, 241



ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE



UNLOCK THE DOORS TO FULFILL YOUR TR

Birmingham City Ladies Captain Visits Leasowes

Some of Leasowes' talented footballers were delighted when Kerys Harrop, Birmingham City Ladies captain, recently visited the school. Students were able to spend time with her picking up some useful advice and asking her many questions about her experience with the local WSL side and her own international experiences.

PE teacher Emma Roden said, "The visit was an inspiration for many of our students, particularly the girls. We already have some strong teams playing girls football for the school and hopefully this will encourage even more to participate. Kerys is a fantastic role model, demonstrating just what can be done with hard work and commitment."



Formula 1 in Schools Central Regional Champions

F1 in Schools, the Formula 1 supported global STEM challenge, is an education programme that has established itself as one of the premier competitions, that not only offers students an engaging and exciting learning experience, it also gives participants a head start on a career path for motorsport, Formula 1 and allied engineering industry.

Eight Leasowes students competed at this years Central regional F1 In Schools final. Two

teams of four students were selected from year 9 Design & Technology GCSE groups. The teams designed their cars using C.A.D software 'Autodesk Inventor' and manufactured them using 3D printing technology. On race day the two teams submitted a design portfolio of work, they were interviewed by design engineers, the cars were scrutinised ensuring they met a strict dimension specification and they gave a 5 minute presentation to a team of F1 engineers. Go to the school website or the link below for images and a video clip of the day.

[www.leasowes.dudley.sch.uk/
general/F1inschools.asp](http://www.leasowes.dudley.sch.uk/general/F1inschools.asp)

TEAM 1: ALCEDO AT THIS:

Daniel Norman, James Moore,
Jack Sullivan & Cameron Zarelli

Awards won:

Regional Champion 2017
Fastest Car
Presentation award

TEAM 2: DOMINATION:

Ali Malic, Brynn Cobane,
Spencer Bourne & Kristian Povey

Awards won:

Portfolio award
Future stars award



Lewis Hamilton at the F1 in School event



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TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE... TRUE POTENTIAL...



Leasowes Students Soar to New Heights

Five Design & Technology year 8 students entered into the Royal Air Force STEM Glider Challenge 2017.

The competition was at RAF Cosford Museum, with 15 teams from the Midlands taking part. The challenge was to design and manufacture a foam board glider using skills from the STEM subjects. Students were assessed throughout the day on the following:

- 5 minute verbal presentation
- Interview with RAF engineers
- Team challenge
- Graphic Design
- Flight of the foam board glider
- Portfolio of work
- The winning students, Samuel Nikolic, Joe south, Edward Jeynes, Jamil Abdulah and Hasan Khan were

delighted that their hard work paid off, "We have worked as a team for about six weeks to design and develop a glider which travels as far as possible. The gliders were regularly tested in the sports hall using a launcher we manufactured. We also had to design a team logo, create a portfolio of work and prepare for the verbal presentation. The skills we have learnt in Design & Technology and the other STEM subjects really helped us to win the competition! We won three trophies, including overall winners and each member of the team won a large range of RAF products and merchandise."



Duke of Edinburgh Awards Delight Students

Fifty Leasowes students have worked tirelessly this year to achieve their first Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Students have to complete a number of tasks covering volunteering in the local community, skills-based activities and two physical expeditions. The culmination of the award included 2 days of hiking and camping over The Long Mynd in Shropshire where students were assessed on their map reading, team work and self-sufficiency skills. Truly they endured two

extremes of weather with persistent rain on day one and heat and sunshine on day 2.

Chris Bennett, Lead D of E Co-ordinator at Leasowes commented, "All of the students coped extremely well in the varying weather conditions. Their resilience and determination is to be applauded. More students than ever will be taking part next year and many of this year's students will now go on to complete their silver award next year."

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CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Aspire and Achieve at Leasowes

Leasowes High School is an ambitious, hardworking and successful school. It has as its motto, 'ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE', and this emphasises the approach that the school takes to the education of its students and their success.

The students are encouraged to have the aspiration to be the best and are supported with traditional approaches to help them succeed. Respect, discipline, and an enjoyment of learning underpin our desire to equip students with the knowledge, skills and resilience to fulfil their productive lives.

Opportunities abound for our students in leadership. Each department recruits subject ambassadors to enhance learning; Peer Mentors are active in transition and support; Student Council representatives provide an active voice for their fellow learners; Students aspire to be part of the Prefect team, led by the Head Girl and Head Boy. Furthermore, extra-curricular activities

for our students range from the award winning STEM club, drama and music through to the Science Crest Team and an ever growing Strategic board games club. The PE and sports curriculum and clubs are able to use our brand new astroturf facility.

The Pastoral care provided by the school is excellent. Parents regularly comment that their child is safe at school (99% agree in 2016/17 questionnaire) and that behaviour is calm and industrious on a daily basis. The students wear their uniform with pride and much of this is founded in our strong team of year heads, pastoral managers, form tutors, attendance officer and school nurse who ensure that our children are safe, happy and have every opportunity to thrive.

Leasowes is an over-subscribed academy within the Invictus Education Trust, working with a strong multi academy group of schools, with a 6th form opening in September, facing a future with great excitement and confidence and a desire to Aspire and Achieve.

NEW SIXTH FORM OPENS 2017

September 2017 sees the opening of Leasowes Sixth Form, an additional campus to the Invictus Education Trust multi-site provision.

Amongst other subjects this year, students will be studying biology, chemistry, drama, psychology, French and history although an array of other subjects can be studied as part of the multi-site provision. A brand new sixth form common room (pictured) and study area has been created with a suite of computers for use in private study.

Leasowes 6th form students will also have the opportunity to partake in a range of enrichment activities, including studying for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), completing mentoring courses to help develop younger students in the school and volunteering at the local Gower Gardens residential care home located next to the school. Furthermore, students will have access to the fabulous on-site facilities, including fitness suite, gym, sports hall and our new 3G Astro Pitches.

Head of 6th Form, Mrs Lucy Ridley said, "It is an exciting venture, which we hope will inspire all pupils both at Leasowes



Sixth Form break out and study area

and the surrounding schools. In 2018 we hope to add yet more subjects to the curriculum to satisfy increasing demand."

Anyone interested in joining the Leasowes 6th Form can collect a prospectus from school. An Open Evening for all Invictus 6th Forms will be held at Himley Hall on Thursday 2nd November.

Talented Students Wow Audience

Talented students at Leasowes High School presented a magical family performance of 'A Spoonful of Sugar' in the Main Theatre during Spring Term. Set in Edwardian London in 1910, the heart-warming story followed the Banks' family and the mysterious arrival of Mary Poppins who brings happiness into the lives of all she meets.

Students had been working on the production since auditions in July 2016. Students demonstrated the utmost dedication and thrived on the opportunity to develop their talents in the many areas of the arts. A wide variety of year groups were involved ranging from years 7-11. For many students, this was their first production.

The stage design overcame the challenges faced regarding the swift changes in location and revealed the social, cultural and historical context of London. The beautiful setting of Cherry Tree Lane was brought to life, scene transitions were swift and the audience boundaries were broken where they were made to feel part of the action. The costumes beautifully reflected the period and reinforced the contrast between class and reality vs the imaginary. Art and Design students dedicated numerous hours to the creation of the set design and props which all contributed immensely to the fiction..

The music was everything that one expected, containing well-loved songs where performers were accompanied by the talented Leasowes Live Student Band. Both children and adults were singing along to the classics

of "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious", "Let's Go Fly a Kite", "Chim Chim Cher-ee" and "A Spoonful of Sugar" sung at an accomplished level by the lead actors. Key moments included Caitlin O'Connor's dynamic delivery of 'Sister Suffragette', Ava McDonald's beautiful realisation of 'Stay Awake' and "Feed the Birds" performed as an entertaining duet by Rugile Senavaityte and Martha Jinks.

The dance routines had the audiences' feet tapping with striking routines. Spectacular moments included a solo ballet piece by Jasmin Graham and the demanding movements of "Step in Time" reinforced the high levels of talent on the stage.

Moments of magic were brought to life by the ensemble who adopted multi-functional roles with conviction to set the scene. Actors demanded the attention of the audience and created the fiction successfully. The theme of childhood was emphasised by mesmerising performances from Conor Taylor as Michael Banks and Chloe Dunkley as Jane Banks. Bert the Sweep played by Oliver Wall demonstrated the charm, fun and energy that the role required. Joshua Stephenson gave a superb performance as George Banks whose transformational journey provided a dramatic



"A Spoonful of Magic from Leasowes" School Production 2017

edge. Caitlin O'Connor presented a charming performance as Mrs Banks accompanied well by Fern Herbert playing an overworked Ellen and Neeijha Robinson adopting the role of the long-suffering Cook. Believable performances were delivered by Jack O'Mahony as the Constable, Angela Turner as Katie Nanna and Mert Oksuzoglu as Jnr Dawes. Callum McIntyre's performance as Senior Dawes captivated the audience by his stage presence, creating an element of humour. Ava McDonald's realisation of Mary Poppins found a place in every child's heart, where her enigmatic, endearing performance was faultless.

The Arts Department continues to offer students many experiences at Leasowes High School that stay with students throughout their lifetime.

March 2018 - "Peter Pan!"

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